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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Foreign Ministers Meeting Held in Tunis

Meeting Begins 12 Feb

LD1202225493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers started this afternoon in the capital under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. The agenda of the foreign ministers' meetings includes a series of issues foremost among which are the crisis between Libya and some Western countries, in addition to other political questions related in particular to the relations of the AMU with other economic blocks especially the EEC. Mr. Habib Ben Yahya gave the following statement to the news department:

[Begin Habib Ben Yahya recording] This is the 12th regular session of the AMU Foreign Ministers' meeting. This is proof of the continuation of the Maghreban action and of the political will at the level of the leadership. This will was crystallized during the first session which lasted four years and during which the AMU countries took the chairmanship in turns. This is the second session, and it is lucky that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the current chairman of the AMU, led this march in the second session of the AMU action. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Then, Mr. Abdrahmane Ould Moine, the Mauritanian foreign minister, took the floor and talked about the period during which his country chaired the AMU, saying that despite all the difficulties Mauritania was able to continue the efforts aimed at consolidating the Maghreban march and building the Maghreban structures and institutions. [passage omitted]

Following this, Mr. Redha Malek, the Algerian foreign minister, took the floor to congratulate Tunisia on its current chairmanship of the AMU. He expressed hope that the march will continue to achieve this vital project with a high spirit of responsibility, because it is the only project that can ensure progress and development especially in light of the big changes in the world where small entities have no place.

Ministerial Council Concludes Session

LD1302161293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The 12th session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Ministerial Council concluded this morning in the capital. The proceedings of this session began at noon yesterday with an opening ceremony followed by a closed meeting in the afternoon which continued until the evening.

In a speech this morning at the conclusion of the session, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya said in particular that the positive results reached during this meeting make a distinguished qualitative contribution to the joined Maghreban work that will help to provide the easiest means to implement our programs in harmony with the aspirations of our peoples and with the international situation in which we now live, which is characterized by rapid changes and the emergence of new groupings, a matter that invite us all to intensify our cooperation to protect our vital interests.

The foreign minister went on to say that the unity of the Maghreban voice and the close cooperation among its peoples constitute an element of stability and prosperity for our peoples and a prop for peace to our greater Maghreb and the entire region of the Mediterranean Sea. On this basis, the AMU will remain a buttress to our vital interests, at the forefront of which is the issue of the Palestinian people. Currently, they are being exposed to a serious campaign of banishment and oppression, which threatens to thwart all efforts to realize a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis.

In his concluding speech, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya also touched upon the AMU's great and continued efforts to find a peaceful and just solution, and an honorable end to the crisis between the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western countries.

In a speech on the occasion, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali congratulated Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on his renewed assumption of the periodic presidency of the AMU, and expressed the hope that during this period Tunisia will be able to propel forward the Maghreb's march to realize and accomplish the decisions and agreements reached so far and to translate them into a reality to be felt and lived by the citizens of the Maghreb.

This is how AMU Secretary General Mohamed Amamou summarized for us the main resolutions of the council:

[Begin Amamou recording] Among the main matters the council examined and passed resolutions about is the periodicity of the meetings of the foreign ministers's council, which will now be convened once every three months. It also discussed the programming of AMU activity and defined its priorities concerning the current stage.

The foreign ministers stressed the need to start carrying out all the resolutions emanating from the AMU presidential council, especially those concerning the lives of Maghreb citizens, whether they live inside or outside the Arab Maghreb. Therefore, the resolutions pertaining to human resources, to food security, and to infrastructure had pride of place in the work of this council.

The session also underlined the need to work for the implementation of these resolutions and recommended that the ad hoc ministerial committees that will meet soon take appropriate action to ensure first the realization of projects in these domains, and second to complete the studies and implementation measures of the agreements concluded in the framework of AMU, and also to prepare the protocols completing these agreements.

The council also examined AMU's relations with other regional groupings, and stressed the need for further action by the state assuming the chairmanship and general secretariat of the AMU to improve cooperation and ties with them, whether these groups be Arab, Islamic, European, African, or Mediterranean, especially the European ones.

As you know, the council also examined political issues including basically the crisis between Libya and some Maghreban countries, about which the ministerial council passed a resolution at its extraordinary session in Rabat last December.

The council discussed other political issues, primarily the Palestinian question and what the Palestinian people are now suffering owing to Israel's obduracy, whether inside the occupied territories, concerning the Palestinian deportees, or the Middle East peace process. [end recording]

Tunisian President Meets Ministers

LD1302225893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The official spokesman for the Presidency has noted that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali affirmed during his meeting with the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers the extreme importance which the meeting of the council of foreign affairs ministers is taking on at this time in particular. His excellency the president expressed his satisfaction with the results of this session, providing his directives for a further consolidation of the Maghreb march by implementing all the union's agreements and decisions and opening wider spheres for joint Maghreb action. This will allow the release of the spacious Maghreb space in the service of the peoples of the region and their aspirations for more affinity and integration to face up to the common challenges.

The official spokesman pointed out that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reemphasized the inevitability of providing all appropriate factors to make the union more capable of holding dialogue and dealing with other regional groups, in particular the European group and the group of countries in the western basin of the Mediterranean, in the spheres of development and scheduled meetings at the regional and international levels.

The official spokesman added that His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali highlighted Tunisia's determination during its chairmanship of the union to continue the work to safeguard all the suitable conditions for consolidating stability, security, and prosperity in the region, affirming the need for efforts to continue to find a peaceful and honorable solution to the existing crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and some western countries, a crisis that has repercussions not only on the fraternal Libyan people but also on the whole region. [passage omitted]

Lifting of UN Libya Sanctions Sought

LD1402195193 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Tunis, Nawwar [February] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab Maghreb Union's Council of Foreign Ministers decided to entrust the Secretary General of the Union Mohamed Amamou to go to the United Nations by the end of next month to give a detailed report to the Security Council on the damage and losses suffered by the Arab Maghreb Union as a result of the unjust coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah and to request the lifting of these measures considering that the Great Jamahiriyah reaffirmed her adherence to the Resolution 731.

This came in a statement by Amamou following the end of the meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Tunis yesterday.

Libyan Envoy on Meeting With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1502121593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, this morning.

Following the session, the Libyan delegate said that he discussed with the secretary general the latest developments on the Arab scene. Al-Bishari added that he briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the outcome of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers meeting that ended yesterday. The AMU's General Secretariat will call on the UN Security Council to lift the embargo on Libya. The embargo, he said, harms other AMU members and not just Libya.

Al-Bishari said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the latest developments concerning the Palestinian issue. Libya, he added, will take part in the emergency Arab League Council meeting tomorrow at Arab League headquarters and will focus on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League said that during the Arab League Council meeting, Libya will voice support for the Palestinian people and call for the immediate and unconditional return of all the Palestinian deportees. Al-Bishari said that Israel's decision to allow the return of 100 deportees does not represent a solution to the problem.

Al-Bishari said that the recent statement by the UN Security Council concerning Resolution 799 involves double-dealing. He added that the UN Security Council issued Resolution 748, which is an unjust resolution, against Libya and implemented it, but failed to implement Resolution 799 concerning the Palestinian deportees.

Concerning the reasons for the postponement of the meeting of the seven-member committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Libyan-Western conflict, al-Bishari said it was postponed because it conflicted with other engagements of the Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers. A new date for the meeting will be decided in consultations held on the sideline of the Arab League meeting tomorrow, al-Bishari said.

The Libyan delegate concluded his remarks by calling for the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people to be lifted because the reasons for it have disappeared.

Arab League Chief Meets Lebanese Prime Minister

NC1302133893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of scientific research, who is heading the official honorary committee escorting the Lebanese official.

Following the meeting, al-Hariri said he invited Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to visit Lebanon and that he accepted. He said the visit will be arranged soon.

Responding to a question on the need for an Arab summit, al-Hariri said that such a summit is necessary, particularly if it produces positive results.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he and al-Hariri discussed the peace process and implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Appeals to UNSC on 'Massacres' in Gaza

LD1202181993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday sent urgent messages to the UN Security Council permanent members, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Organization of African Unity, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Arab leaders.

These messages dealt with the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the war of genocide waged by Yitzhaq Rabin against our Palestinian people since he assumed the premiership of the Israeli Government; the latest acts of which was the crime committed by the occupation soldiers yesterday in the Gaza strip, to be more precise in Khan Yunis city. Helicopters and heavy vehicles bombarded houses with missiles, leading to the destruction of many houses and the wounding of some 900 people, including 38 martyrs.

The brother president appealed for immediate action to halt these massacres against our people, by providing international protection for it, so as to rescue the peace process and achieve the desired just peace in the region.

PLO Seeks Security Council Session on Deportees

JN1202203093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Nasir al-Qudwah, PLO delegate to the United Nations, has condemned the intensification of the Zionist repression in the occupied territories, particularly in Gaza. He expressed amazement at the fact that the UN Security Council has so far failed to discuss Secretary General Butrus- Ghali's report on the Palestinians banished to Lebanon. In a letter to the UN Security Council president, in the name of the PLO, brother Nasir al-Qudwah asked that the UN Security Council immediately discuss the report that Butrus Ghali submitted on 25 January in order to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 and put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Christopher Tour 'Last Hope' To Solve Crisis

NC1502172393 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Palestinians have informed the United States they will not resume peace talks with Israel before a settlement of the deportee crisis, a senior PLO official said Monday [15 February].

Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat, said this week's Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was a "last hope" to resolve the crisis.

The spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Hanan 'Ashrawi, informed State Department officials in Washington that the UN Security Council statement has not changed the Palestinian position, he said.

The Security Council on Friday voiced support for a U.S.-inspired compromise offer for Israel to take back some 100 of 396 deportees it expelled from the occupied territories to Lebanon in December.

It also urged Israel to repatriate the rest "as soon as possible," retreating from Security Council Resolution 799 ordering the immediate return of all the men.

Sha'th told AFP the PLO still wanted a precise timetable for their return.

"The statement was only an approval of the settlement proposed by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin. That is why without a solution we cannot fix a date to resume negotiations," he said.

"We are waiting for Mr. Christopher's tour of the Middle East as a last hope, because it is up to the United States as the main sponsor of the peace process to work for a resumption of the negotiations."

The secretary of state embarks on the tour on February 17.

Asked whether the Palestinians would boycott negotiations even if other Arab countries returned to the talks with Israel, Sha'th said: "That's a question we will examine later with our Arab partners." [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Rejects UNSC Announcement on Deportees

JN1302182693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians have rejected the UN Security Council's latest announcement on the Palestinian deportees which practically means an acceptance of Israel's proposal to return one-fourth of them. The Palestinians said that they are not concerned with this announcement and criticized the way in which it took place. They reaffirmed their rejection of resuming the negotiations before beginning to implement Resolution 799 calling for their immediate return.

Spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi voiced dissatisfaction with how the statements she made yesterday were distorted, statements in which she affirmed that the Palestinians are ready to accept any vehicles, or measures the UN Security Council will adopt on the deportees such as reaching agreement on vehicles concerning a timetable and a set date for their return.

'Ashrawi said that the agreement reached between the president of the UN Security Council for this month Moroccan Envoy Ahmed Senoussi and the Israeli envoy is an attempt to extricate Israel from its dilemma.

In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, 'Ashrawi said:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We view this as another attempt to circumvent UN Security Council resolutions and it is another deal to save the first one which was also rejected in the past. This announcement is void of any content and it is a blow to the UN Security Council's credibility and integrity. This announcement can in no way whatsoever be accepted. It did not tackle the basic issues on which we always focus our attention; the first issue is the illegality of the deportation, and the second is the need to abide by the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. This is another attempt to circumvent the resolution and an attempt to exploit the UN Security Council to peddle resolutions and stands to save Israel and deal a blow to legitimate Palestinian rights in the occupied territories. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Says Talks Off Until All Deportees Back

TA1302124993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Palestinians have refused to accept the recent developments in Israel's favor at the United Nations. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports on their angry reactions.

[Begin recording] [Segal] The Palestinians have rejected the agreement reached by all the members of the Security Council to accept the Israeli compromise on the deportee affair. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, said that the Palestinians would accept the Security Council's decision, in the hope that the Council would impose tough conditions on Israel for the return of the deportees. Today, however, following the Council's acceptance of the Israeli compromise, 'Ashrawi went back on her earlier statements and said that the peace process could not be resumed before all the deportees were returned to Israeli territory.

'Ashrawi was merely reiterating the Palestinians' official position that any failure by Israel to fully implement Security Council Resolution 799 harmed the chances of resuming the negotiations, because then there was no guarantee that Israel would comply with other Security Council resolutions, such as 242 and 338. Here is the reaction of Palestinian delegate Ghassan al-Khatib.

[Al-Khatib, in English] We cannot go back to the peace negotiations before Israel accepts Security Council Resolution 799. [passage omitted]

[Segal] Despite their desire to return to the negotiating table, the Palestinian delegates are bound by the PLO's official position. Therefore, they declare that for the time being, the peace process will not be resumed.

[Al-Khatib in English] The question is whether Israel is going to continue building this obstacle that is preventing the peace process....

[Segal translates above remarks and continues]...by ignoring the UN resolutions and keeping the deportees in a no-man's-land. When asked about the international pressure that will now be directed at the Palestinians, al-Khatib avoided making a direct reply. It appears, however, that following last night's discussions at the United Nations the ball is now in the Palestinian court, and they do not seem to know just what to do with it yet. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh Disappointed With UN Decision

JN1302200193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] In Amman, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, emphasized the PLO's adherence to the return of all deportees as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 799.

In a statement to our politicial affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi, 'Abd-Rabbuh described the statement by the UN Security Council president as negative and a circumvention of international legitimacy.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] We were expecting the Security Council to hold another session so that all council members would discuss the issue of implementing this resolution. However, it is regrettable that there was procrastination and an attempt to circumvent the work of the Security Council and its resolution.

We do not believe in semi-international legitimacy. We also do not believe in partial or phased implementation of Security Council resolutions. This is a very serious precedent in dealing with Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. This precedent could also be used to deal with the peace process itself.

Therefore, we believe that the statement by the UN Security Council president does not add anything new and does not solve the main issue; that is, the issue of returning all the deportees according to international legitimacy. We also believe that the return of the deportees is the door to resuming the peace process because this will at least be a symbol of respect for the bases of international legitimacy. [end recording]

Al-Husayni: PLO Members Could Replace Delegates

TA1302171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said that if Israel continues its policy of oppression, as he put it, the Palestinian negotiating team will be unable to carry on with its role and will be replaced by known PLO members. Al-Husayni made the remarks in an interview with the London-based AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI. He added that along with the political process, the PLO will continue its struggle in the field, as it was carried in Vietnam or Algiers.

Deportees' Return Called 'Crucial' to Talks

NC1302101893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Chicago, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, what is new concerning the Palestinian deportees, in light of recent Israeli statements?

['Abd-al-Shafi] So far, the deportees issue presents a major obstacle to resuming the peace talks. As everyone knows, the UN Security Council has issued Resolution 799 in this regard. The Palestinian position is that Israel should implement that resolution before the peace talks are resumed.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Palestinians insist on implementation of Resolution 799. Meanwhile, Israel refuses to implement the resolution in full and wants to go about it step by step. This is something to which the Palestinians have to react. Right now, knowing that you are in the United States, what kind of consultations are under way? What has been achieved so far?

['Abd-al-Shafi] What matters is that Israel recognize and implement the UN Security Council resolution. Israeli recognition of UN Security Council resolutions is crucial to the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, do you think that Israel will implement the UN Security Council resolution on the deportees? If not, what will the Palestinian response be?

['Abd-al-Shafi] So far, there is no indication that Israel wishes to implement or show commitment to that resolution. This is a major obstacle. The Palestinian side sees Israel's adherence to this resolution as crucial. The Palestinian position is this: We will not go back to the negotiating table until Israel implements that resolution.

[Abu-al-Majd] Arab countries are seriously contemplating the possibility of imposing sanctions on Israel if it continues to reject Resolution 799. Suppose that a draft resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, is proposed. In light of your contacts with U.S. officials, do you think that the United States will approve such a resolution?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot speculate on the U.S. reaction to such a move. However, I imagine that the United States has a legal responsibility to uphold and is committed to the continuation of the peace process. This should make the United States approve any resolution compelling Israel to implement UN Security Council resolutions.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, do the Palestinians have plans that they wish to discuss with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his Middle East tour?

['Abd-al-Shafi] All I wish to say is that we are holding fast to our principled and legitimate position and will tell Christopher that the United States should respect UN Security Council resolutions, work for their implementation, and not condone Israel's persistent defiance of UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

PNC Speaker Rejects UNSC Recommendations

LD1402180393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, yesterday expressed his rejection of the UN Security Council recommendations issued two days ago on the deportees. He described them as a move toward blurring the issue.

In a press statement, Shaykh al-Sa'ih emphasized that there will be no solution except by the return of all the deportees to their homes, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 799. After that the negotiations on the peace in the region will be able to be resumed. He expressed his belief that the success of the coming Middle East mission of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will depend on its working seriously toward ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state of their own on their own land.

Delegate on Israeli Practices, Christopher Tour

NC1502093493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] At the beginning of our discussion, could you give us a picture of the excessive campaign of repression being waged by the occupation forces against the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza?

['Urayqat] Perhaps the worst thing that the occupations forces are doing right now is besieging the houses of Palestinian civilians and throwing them out of their homes without allowing them the chance to ("argue their cause). Two days ago, special units of the occupation forces fired anti-tank missiles at houses in Khan Yunus, destroying more than 20 of them. This means that 20 Palestinian families, each with an average of 10 members, have become homeless. The Israelis claim that they do this to search for wanted people and they are defending so-called Israeli security.

In addition, Israeli hit teams or death squads are systematically murdering young people. Over the past nine days, the occupation forces have killed 10 young men, most of them under 14. Other instances of repression include the regular curfews, random roadblocks, confiscation of land, continued building of settlements, tax-collection campaigns, arbitrary arrests, and detentions without trial. This is the current situation in the occupied Arab territories. It is one in which Israel acts without restraint or qualms, and with apparent immunity from international pressure. Israel acts as if it were above international law. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin his first tour of the Middle East this week, a tour that reflects U.S. interest in reviving the Middle East peace process. Considering Christopher's previous experience concerning the peace process, do you believe that the tour can put the peace process on a strong foundation and help it achieve its objectives?

['Urayqat] Of all the sides, the Palestinian are perhaps the most eager to maintain the peace process. Our land is under occupation and our people suffer every day as a result. We have been notified that the U.S. Administration wants a Palestinian-U.S. meeting, or perhaps two, to be held in Jerusalem. We have informed the PLO leadership of this and it has given its approval.

We will fully brief Christopher on the situation in the occupied territories and on the oppressive Israeli practices. We have prepared maps showing the continuation of Israeli settlement activities. We also have records of killings, detentions, and the destruction of houses. We want to present the U.S. secretary of state with the complete and true picture and show him his responsibilities in this regard.

This is the Israel that the United States made a deal with to extract it from the dilemma of UN Security Council Resolution 799. This is the Israel that talks about peace more than anyone but continually seeks to undermine the peace process. Israel has chosen to poison the atmosphere of the peace talks rather than offer any confidence-building measures.

We will present Christopher with the facts of the situation, backed by documents, photographs, and maps. As for the result of the visit, this largely depends on what Christopher will say and do about Israel's continued excesses and the still unresolved question of the deportees.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

['Urayqat] You're welcome.

PLO Adviser on Rabin Policy, Christopher Tour

NC1402084593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you, Ashraf.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The situation in the occupied territories, specifically in Gaza, is worsening due to the oppressive and inhuman practices of the Israeli occupation authorities. What is the Palestinian position on the deteriorating situation in occupied Gaza?

[Abu-Sharif] What is happening in the occupied territories in general, particularly Khan Yunus, is very serious. The world has been silent on the practices of the occupation forces—practices ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. We believe the Israeli acts are a result of the new U.S. Administration's indirect encouragement of the Israeli prime minister. We hold the United Nations and the Security Council largely responsible because we had demanded that the Palestinian people be protected from these practices and drew attention to the fact that Rabin's scheme is effective and serious; it is designed to destroy Palestinians' houses, drive them out of their homes, deport large numbers of them, and ultimately undermine the heroic Palestinian intifadah. But we clearly say that this brutal violence perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces will be confronted by firm resistance, further adherence to the land, and stronger resistance against occupation. The Palestinian people have no option but to struggle to wrest their freedom.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do the developments in Gaza and the other occupied territories prove that Rabin is pursuing the same policy as his predecessor Shamir?

[Abu-Sharif] I say—and I am responsible for my words and hope they will reach the decisionmakers in Washington—that Rabin has given clear orders to escalate what they call the iron fist, a policy of brutal oppression against the Palestinians. Rabin is fully responsible. That is why we demanded that the Palestinian people be protected from these brutal practices, which constitute a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, successive Security Council resolutions, and international law. Our brother officials in Cairo are well aware of this. The issue was discussed between His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat. The situation in Gaza is indeed tragic and volatile.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Bassam Abu-Sharif, the oppressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories indicate many things. What are these things?

[Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that the program for which the Israelis have recently voted, resulting in the victory of the Labor Party, is not the same program Rabin is currently implementing. In fact, Rabin's policy is a violation of that program. The first indication, we believe, is that Rabin is engaged in practices similar to those adopted by the Likud. Second, Rabin wants to evade and undermine the peace process, which over the past two years consolidated peacelovers' hopes that the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region—which we seek—is possible. The third indication is that Rabin, by increasing this brutal violence against the Palestinians, is trying to undermine the Palestinian intifadah and resistance. Of course he will not succeed; he is dreaming, as he has been for over five years. We clearly say that the Palestinian people, who committed themselves to the peace process and establishing peace, cannot accept capitulation. We accepted the peace process on the basis of President Bush's plan, which was based on international legitimacy and on giving the Palestinian people their full political rights. Rabin does not want peace and he is trying to undermine it by attacking the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Abu-Sharif, amid this situation, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is visiting the region. What is the Palestinian position on this visit?

[Abu-Sharif] In brief, Warren Christopher is not new to the Middle East issue. Although a number of the new State Department staff have links with AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], which is a pro-Israel Jewish movement in the United States, Christopher is supposed to adopt positions that guarantee the continuation, not the demolition, of the peace process. Otherwise, the entire Middle East, not only occupied Palestine, will be affected by the new U.S. Administration's bias in favor of Rabin, and the United States will only find a boiling Middle East, from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to this, the political world today is not influenced by the position of a single party, but by a host of factors and collective positions. Here I say that if the Arabs fail to demonstrate a cohesive and united position toward the U.S. Administration and the implementation of international legitimacy, then Christopher will not be influenced. Arab solidarity is necessary so the U.S. Administration will realize its bias toward Israel will be costly.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process will hold a meeting at the end of the U.S. secretary of state's visit. What are the Palestinian proposals for the meeting, knowing that these meetings are usually held to coordinate positions prior to peace talks?

[Abu-Sharif] The meeting will be very important. I personally believed that meetings should be held before and after Christopher's visit. We have heard Rabin telling the Labor Party bloc at the Knesset that Israel and the United States reached a comprehensive deal, not only about secondary issues, but also about the full course of the peace process. This is a clear violation of the letter of invitation addressed to the Arab negotiators and of the letters of assurances sent to the negotiating parties. How could the United States and Israel strike a deal without informing the other parties of the contents, factors, and clauses of it? Israel is not the only party involved in the peace process, and it can only establish peace through an agreement with the other Arab parties. Therefore, the Arabs must demonstrate a firm position to Christopher. I say firm, not intransigent; that is, there should be insistence on implementing international legitimacy and adhering to President Bush's plan, on whose bases the Arabs participated in the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. We always welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you, Ashraf.

Upcoming Meetings With Christopher Viewed

NC1402114693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet twice with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Jerusalem during his visit to Israel within his Middle East tour in the second half of February, a Palestinian source in Amman has said.

The source told MENA the Palestinian delegation will emphasize to Mr. Christopher that the U.S.-backed Israeli attempts to circumvent implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of the deportees will obstruct the peace process and ignite resistance in the occupied territories.

The source said the delegation will once again ask the United States to apply effective pressure on Israel so that it will stop its inhuman practices against the Palestinian people and end mass deportations, house demolitions, and arrests. The delegation will demand that Israel take clear measures to create an appropriate atmosphere in the occupied territories should the peace process resume.

The source said the first meeting with Christopher will be attended by members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, while the second will include leaders of the delegation under the chairmanship of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation's advisory committee.

Hamas Spokesman on PLO Relations, Negotiations

JN1402134693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Feb 93 pp 1, 16

[report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has accused the Palestinian leadership of looking at the issue of deportees as a national political perspective. The movement stressed that this leadership is dealing with the deportees' issue as something that is placing obstacles in the road of negotiations, and, as such, is attempting to surpass these obstacles to continue with the negotiations which will not result in anything.

Hamas Movement Offical Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah emphasized that his movement will not join the PLO institutions unless the PLO announces its withdrawal from the negotiations and unless the PLO's executive leadership stops making concessions.

Responding to questions by SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that the file of comprehensive national dialogue with Hamas and other national forces will not be opened as long as this situation continues.

Ghawshah expressed his belief that the obstacle preventing Hamas and others from joining the PLO institutions is the mentality presiding over the PLO's leadership which aims at controlling all PLO bodies.

He said that this situation freezes joint Palestinian action and does not make the issue of national unity a real one. Moreover, this situation prevents surpassing the role of slogans and making decisive agreements to activate the intifadah and entrenching armed struggle.

Hamas movement official spokesman added: We were expecting Fatah leadership to support Hamas movement through field operations, not through indoctrinating statements, to entrench and emphasize the comradeship and brotherhood of struggle and blood in the battle ground. He noted that none of this will take place as Fatah's anniversary has passed without any noteworthy operations.

Ghawshah said that at the Khartoum meeting, Fatah and Hamas movements agreed, in theory and in writing, not to launch personal and non-objective attacks because it would not be in anyone's interest. He explained that objective assessment is that which serves the interest of the Palestinian issue. This is especially so since it is unacceptable to hide facts from the Palestinian people. However, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] opened fire on Hamas directly after the Khartoum meeting, but Hamas preferred not to respond.

In reply to a question on accusations against the Hamas movement, he said that the history of Hamas is pure and that the movement does not fear accusations from anyone. He added that Hamas' daily militant operations transcend wounds and that Hamas is one of the most selfless factions, seeking no official postions because it strongly adheres to the constants of the Palestinian people. He said: We will fight until martyrdom for the sake of not relinquishing any of these constants.

On the movement's relationship with the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the peace talks], he said: It is a political relationship. We are affiliated with the same front to close ranks in order to abort any attempt to go back on or relinquish any of the Palestinian people's constants and to confront the self-rule plan and the current negotiations process which do not serve the interest of the Palestinian people.

Ghawshah said: We were expecting the train of national unity to go faster and on a track that has no obstacles because we thought that the historical turning point in which the Palestinian people have been living since the intifadah entered its sixth year had been absorbed and understood well by the leadership and the people. We also thought that this historical turning point changed the present political vision of the reality of the Palestinian issue and that active steps would emerge from the deadlocked negotiations.

'Arafat Chairs 14 Feb Fatah Peace Process Talks

LD1502174493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] The Tunisian news agency, TAP, reports that Fatah's Central Committee opened a series of meetings in Tunis yesterday under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees, and the latest developments in the occupied territories and their impact on the peace process.

OPEC Affairs

UAE Warns of More Pullouts if Prices Not Addressed

NC1202175493 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 12 (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday [12 February] urged OPEC to agree on production cuts to raise sagging oil prices and warned failure to reach a deal could push more members to quit the cartel.

On the eve of an OPEC meeting in Vienna, the official news agency WAM said the UAE was prepared to back any agreement to reduce output provided it covered all members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Failure to reach agreement could push down prices by two dollars immediately and this means more financial losses for OPEC," it warned.

"But the bigger loss... is that failure to reach agreement will push OPEC into a new stage of serious divisions, which will strengthen the principle of quitting the organisation" and other countries could follow Ecuador's lead in leaving.

In Vienna, OPEC's 12 oil ministers will discuss proposals to reduce production by at least one million barrels per day (b/d) to prop up prices that have declined by nearly 20 percent since late last year.

The reduction from the official ceiling of 24.5 million b/d will cover the second quarter. But OPEC President Alirio Parra of Venezuela, who recently made an extensive tour of member states, called for cutting output from March 1.

Before flying to Vienna, UAE Oil Minister Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf said: "Starting the reduction from March 1 will determine OPEC output for four months instead of three. This will give a stronger boost to prices."

He said a cut of one million b/d would mop up between 500,000 and 700,000 b/d from the glutted market, where actual OPEC supplies exceed 25 million b/d.

But the oil minister added he could not know the exact impact of the reduction on prices, which are now about four dollars below their benchmark of 21 dollars.

Oil sources said Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil-exporter, and its Gulf partners were expected to throw their weight behind an OPEC deal to save prices but they doubted Kuwait, still recovering from the Iraqi occupation, would cut output.

In the midst of an economic crisis, Ecuador pulled out of OPEC in November to free itself from output quotas and from a two-million-dollar annual contribution for its OPEC membership.

Iran Demands One Billion Barrel Ceiling Cut

LD1302222193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Minutes before the opening of the OPEC oil ministers session in Vienna on 13 February, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said: Iran demands a cut in the official oil production ceiling of at least 1 billion barrels of crude oil per day and the appropriate division of that cut among all OPEC members. He added: So far all the OPEC members, with the exception of Kuwait, have declared their readiness to cut their production ceiling.

The OPEC oil ministers began their closed session in Vienna at 1500 on Saturday [13 February]. In the opinion of oil experts, the realization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's demand regarding a cut in oil output could increase the OPEC oil price by $1 or $2 per barrel.

'Realistic' Agreement on Oil Reduction Predicted

LD1502103693 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Vienna, Feb 15 (APS)—Algerian minister of energy, Hacene Mefti, expects a "realistic" agreement within OPEC for a reduction of production.

In a statement to the press, Mefti said Sunday [14 February] that the OPEC meeting of Vienna would wind up Monday with an agreement on the reduction of production on a "realistic" basis.

On his turn, the Libyan minister of energy, 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri said the OPEC members are nearing to an agreement. "OPEC discussions meet a small problem but they are near an agreement", he said.

On the other hand, the Kuwaiti minister said negotiations must be based on a quota to Kuwait of 2.1 million barrels per day.

Kuwait Reportedly Pressured To Reduce Production

LD1502100493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Vienna, 15 Feb (KUNA)—Oil sources said here today that great pressure is being exerted on Kuwait by OPEC countries to force it to bear the large part of the reduction of OPEC's production ceiling.

These sources informed KUNA that the other OPEC member countries are demanding that Kuwait reduce its production, which has reached 2 million barrels per day [bpd] in February, to 1,438,000 bpd; i.e., a reduction of 28 percent, equivalent to 562,000 bpd, while the proposed reduction for the rest of OPEC does not exceed 4 percent.

Oil analysts attribute the pressure on Kuwait to the OPEC member countries not taking into consideration the increased production that Kuwaiti has succeeded in achieving since December 1992 and continuing until February, something that exceeded the expectations of oil observers.

It is worth mentioning that Kuwait had been offered, according to the November 1992 agreement, the right to produce any additional amount above its production level, which was estimated then at 1.5 million bpd, until the end of the first quarter of 1993.

Kuwait Agrees To Cut Production

LD1602101593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Vienna, 16 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwait's Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said Kuwait is "painfully" prepared to cut back oil output to 1.6 million barrels a day [bpd] from the present two million bpd. This is as a result of its desire to see that the meetings of the OPEC ministerial committee on production control and marketing succeed.

He added in a statement to KUNA here today that Kuwait is making this enormous sacrifice as a gesture of solidarity with OPEC and in order not to opt out of the consensus which would have inflicted great harm on all the OPEC states except Kuwait, because the steady increase in Kuwait's production which came as a surprise to everyone would have compensated for any fall in prices.

He explained that Kuwait accepts the cut back to 1.6 million bpd despite the fact that Kuwait's current output has been permitted by OPEC under the agreement of November 1992.

He noted that great pressure was put on Kuwait to make it cut back its output according to the percentage agreed by OPEC and this is not from the current genuine and legitimate production of Kuwait of two million bpd but on the actual production figure of November last which was then estimated at 1.5 million bpd.

The Kuwaiti minister emphasized very strongly that, in exchange for this tremendous sacrifice, Kuwait has asked OPEC that the agreement should contain a clause demanding the commitment of all OPEC members to guarantee to grant Kuwait a production quota commensurate with the size of its reserves, production capability, and its historic market share and, with effect from 1 July 1993, to treat Kuwait equally with those OPEC members possessing the same historic criteria already mentioned.

He stressed that this would be the minimum that Kuwait would receive from OPEC for the great sacrifices Kuwait has made for the sake of all OPEC members, in order for Kuwait not to be accused of. [incomplete sentence as received]

Mr. Baghli said that Kuwait, having made this great historic sacrifice for the sake of OPEC and its unity, reserves its legitimate right to raise future production in line with its production capability.

OPEC ministers are due to hold a joint session this morning, expected to be their final one, in order to reach a final agreement on a production ceiling of 23.582 million bpd and on new production quotas for each member during the second quarter of this year. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Attempted Assassination of Defense Minister Fails

LD1302122893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] We have just learned from the prime minister's office that an outrage was perpetrated this morning along the route usually taken by Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar.

A car bomb exploded at 1000 near the Elbiar stadium as Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar's automobile was passing by. The powerful explosion caused only material damage, and fortunately caused no injuries among passers-by. As for the defense minister, he arrived at his office safe and sound.

More on Assassination

NC1302183393 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, Feb 13 (AFP)—Algerian Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar escaped an assassination bid and four police officers were killed in a separate attack Saturday outside Algiers, officials said.

A powerful bomb hidden in a van exploded as General Nezzar's convoy was driving by on a road outside Algiers, official sources said.

Neither General Nezzar's car, nor those of his escort, were damaged and no one was hurt by the powerful explosion, which destroyed two parked cars and blew a lock-up garage at El Biar, in the hills above the Algerian capital.

Nezzar returned to his office immediately after the attack, an official source said.

Police later cordoned off the area, which is located near the Supreme Court, the law faculty and a number of schools.

Meanwhile four police officers including a commissioner were killed on their way to work in an ambush by five men armed with automatic rifles, officials said, adding that the assailants escaped in a van.

The attacks came one day after the Justice Ministry announced that four Islamic militants sentenced to death by a military court last May for their involvement in an attack on a border post in eastern Algeria had been executed.

Nezzar, 55, is one of the five members of the ruling collegial presidency which has clamped down on Islamic militants since their party, the Islamic Salvation Front, was banned last year as it was about to win general elections.

Thursday Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam said 600 people had died including 250 security forces since the state of emergency was declared in Algeria a year ago.

FIS Comments on Attack

LD1402194093 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Athens, Feb. 14, IRNA—Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has said that Saturday's [13 February] attack against the Algerian defence minister was an expression of rejection of the regime by the people.

"What happened to the defence minister of the ruling band in Algeria yesterday once again expresses the rejection of the Algerian people of those tyrant overthrowers," the FIS in a statement faxed to IRNA here by its spokesman in Europe, Rabeh Kabir, said Sunday.

It continued that the attack also "represents a clear warning from the Mojahedin to this tyrant who has waged war against God and his Prophet (PBUH) [peace be upon him] openly and stood with all power against the wish of the Algerian people who chose the Islamic solution."

FIS said it was also a "warning to all those who stood with this evil band or supported it."

HSC Discusses Attempt

LD1402204793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] met today under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi to discuss the attempt yesterday on the life of Khaled Nezzar, HSC member and defense minister. The attempt showed the extent to which those seeking, for some time now, to undermine the state and lead the country into a catastrophe are prepared to go.

In this context the HSC reaffirmed that it is absolutely determined to eradicate terrorism once and for all, and to neutralize all who perpetrate it in any way whatsoever. As part of its political program, the HSC will continue with the national dialogue in such a manner as to enable all concerned institutions, representatives of political associations and parties, social forces, and individuals who wish to do so, the opportunity to offer their assistance on behalf of the national interest and democratic choice, in a spirit of respect for the republican spirit. The HSC will invite those concerned with this dialogue all through the month of Ramadan.

Redha Malek, HSC member and foreign minister, presented a report on the recent meeting of Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers, held in Tunis, and on his talks with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. In another connection, following the meeting between the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers, the HSC decided that a special envoy should be sent to Morocco.

Opposition Parties Condemn Attempt

LD1402235793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The failed attempted attack on Major General Khaled Nezzar has evoked the indignation of the opposition parties. They have strongly condemned this attempt, which was aimed at destabilizing the country.

In this connection, the Algerian National Rally stated that the terrorist attack which was aimed at the defense minister confirms the criminals' intention of destabilizing the National Popular Army, stimulating doubts, and causing dissension in its ranks. The party renews its complete support for the army, which has demonstrated its capability of saving the country from the crisis.

For its part, the Popular Association for Unity and Action condemned the aggression and all attempts at infringing the country's stability and civil peace, and called on all sincere patriots to reject such actions.

The Challenge Movement [harakatu tahad], which replaces the Socialist Vanguard Party, stated that this action is part of a premeditated destabilization strategy.

In a statement to one of the national dailies, the Hamas movement condemned violence and terrorism irrespective of their source.

'Largest' Terrorist Arms Network Dismantled

LD1602095493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] After two months of investigation and pursuit, units of the Gendarmerie group in Setif Province, with the cooperation of Gendarmerie units from several provinces in the country, have succeeded in dismantling the largest illegal arms trade network since independence. The network was geared toward arming terrorists. For more details here is radio correspondent Hamza Wahib:

[Wahib] A spokesman of the National Gendarmerie units in Setif gave a detailed account of the search operations that had been carried out by the Gendarmerie units during January and February. The operations put an end to the biggest arms smuggling and trading network since independence. The remaining members of the gang are expected to be rounded up soon.

The National Gendarmerie services in Setif—which had been entrusted with intervening and following up issues like these at any time or place—detained 100 persons, including smugglers, arms traders, and gunsmiths, and seized about 840 weapons, including 400 automatic pistols.

The spokesman explained that investigation revealed a relationship between the arms traders and the terrorist gangs and that the arms were not stolen. According to the National Gendarmerie services, the towns of Berhoum in M'sila and Djezzar and Barika in Batna are considered to be the most active areas in arms trading. The search operations by the National Gendarmerie is part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at disarming everybody who is not licensed to carry items such as smuggled or homemade arms.

An APS report says that according to the National Gendarmerie command this network has been in existence for years. It became more active in 1988. After that it was brought under the wing of the dissolved National Salvation Front [FIS] and afterward it was turned into a network that supplied the terrorists.

The National Gendarmerie command points out that half the elements of this network belong to the dissolved FIS or are FIS sympathizers.

In the second newscast you may be able to listen to the confessions of those who are under arrest.

Prime Minister Abdesselam Assails FLN

LD1602114793 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Algiers, 15 Feb (APS)—Observers are unanimous in their opinion that the appeal by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam to FLN militants to liberate the party from the grip of the group that has buried its principles and values is not a part of his preoccupation as a prime minister or as a politician but as a man who is inspired by his long-standing militant experience in the FLN ranks from the first day of the FLN's existence to this moment.

Belaid Abdesselam had previously said that the FLN has departed from its unitarian line which sought to establish a developed and modern society and had become a hollow structure under the influence of a group that used all methods in order to remain in power and for the sake of personal interests at the expense of the vast majority of the Algerian people who, to this day, regard the principles of the FLN as a shield protecting the nation and the basis of development.

In the face of this miserable situation, the FLN—Belaid Abdesselam thinks—became a group of people who monopolized the management of the FLN and who steered it toward an unknown fate. They isolated every militant who opposed reforms and they prevented him from standing for legislative elections at the time of his resignation from the FLN Central Committee. [passage omitted]

At that time, during the meetings of the FLN Central Committee, Belaid Abdesselam demanded the departure of the regime which destroyed the national economic machine, hampered development programs, and dismembered the workers' institutions as a result of the restructuring process. All of this led the country to bankruptcy, according to Belaid Abdesselam. [passage omitted]

Belaid Abdesselam opposed the reforms championed by the FLN leadership because he believed that those reforms were inevitably going to impoverish the vast majority of the people of the country and open the way to foreign forces that would turn Algeria into a consumer market where only the strong would survive. Therefore, Belaid Abdesselam never let an opportunity go by without exposing the hidden faults in the reforms of the Hamrouch government and the collusion of the FLN leadereship in this failed adventure which would have worsened the economic, social, and political situation and burdened the citizens with its aftermath.

The attitudes of Belaid Abdesselam toward the FLN were not the result of the difficult circumstances experienced by the country; they existed since the painful events of 1988. At that time, he signed a petition along with other well-known national figures calling on former President of the Republic Bendjedid, who at that time was secretary general of the FLN, to hold a national conference to debate conditions in the country, a debate in which all the citizens would participate, and to return to popular legitimacy.

Despite Belaid Abdesselam's entry to the FLN Central Committee at the time of the extraordinary congress in 1989, his differences with the leadership became deep-rooted as a result of the deviation of the FLN from the principles and aims of the declaration of 1 November 1954.

'Illegal' Arms Traders Arrested; Weapons Seized

LD1502234193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] National Gendarmerie services of Setif Governorate, in collaboration with Gendarmerie units of several governorates of the country, have arrested a large gang engaged in illegal arms trading. In its possession were 842 weapons meant for arming terrorists. The weapons, which were shown to the press Monday in Setif in the presence of some of the gang's network, numbering about 700 persons, consist of 400 automatic pistols, five submachine guns, 437 shotguns and a homemade gun.

Terrorists Attack Bus Carrying Gendarmes' Children

LD1402173693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned from the command of the National Gendarmerie that a driver of a school bus carrying children of gendarmes who live outside the town of Reghaia in Boumerdes Province was severely wounded this morning when attacked by two terrorists armed with a submachine gun and two automatic pistols.

The same source stated that the two terrorists escaped in a Peugeot 205 registered in Boumerdes Province.

Egypt

Lebanese Prime Minister Conducts Official Visit

Concludes Media Cooperation Pact

NC1202141393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral media cooperation. They agreed that the Lebanese Television Corporation will receive the Egyptian Satellite Channel programs effective the beginning of Ramadan and rebroadcast some of them. They also agreed that Lebanese television will select programs suitable for Ramadan and rebroadcast them to the Lebanese people. Under the agreement, Egyptian experts will train Lebanese media cadres and enhance technical and engineering cooperation to promote Lebanese television programs. The agreement was reached during talks held yesterday before a dinner Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi hosted in honor of the Lebanese prime minister.

Holds Official Talks With Sidqi

NC1202191793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Lebanese counterpart Rafiq al-Hariri held a session of official talks at the Prime Minister's Office this evening. The talks dealt with means of strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields and current Arab and international issues.

The two-hour meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the Lebanese prime minister. On the Egyptian side the meeting was attended by the foreign minister, economy minister, housing minister, minister of state for scientific research, interior minister, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the director of the General Investment Authority's Executive Committee.

Meets With Sidqi, Musa

NC1202220393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi once again has emphasized that partial solutions to the Palestinian deportees issue are unacceptable.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Lebanese Embassy in Cairo to mark Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit to Egypt, Dr. Sidqi stated that his talks with his Lebanese counterpart dealt with the peace question and Middle East, Gulf, and African issues. He added that the talks also centered on topics related to Egyptian-Lebanese and inter-Arab ties. He noted that the final communique on the Egyptian-Lebanese talks will be issued tomorrow at the end of al-Hariri's visit to Egypt.

He noted that an Egyptian ministerial delegation will travel to Lebanon on Tuesday [16 February] to attend an exhibition of Egyptian products.

On his part, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that al-Hariri's talks in Egypt covered the deportees issue. He noted that Security Council Resolution 799 must be implemented in full, adding that the immediate return of the deportees must be to their homes and land. Musa emphasized that failure to implement this resolution will have a negative effect on the peace talks in the region.

Egyptian Housing Minister Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi will travel to Beirut on Thursday to hold talks with Lebanese officials and businessmen on the possible participation of Egyptian contractors in the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Issues Joint Communique

NC1302110293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Egypt and Lebanon have reiterated their determination to continue to support the Middle East peace process, ensure the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the immediate return of the deportees to their homes.

This came in a joint communique issued today on the visit to Egypt of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, which began two days ago.

The communique notes that al-Hariri conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi expressing the appreciation of the Lebanese people and Government for the substantial role President Mubarak plays in service of the Arab nation's issues.

The joint Lebanese-Egyptian communique points out that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has held talks and exchanged views with his Lebanese counterpart on various pan-Arab and international issues. They also discussed how to promote bilateral relations.

In the communique, Egypt and Lebanon stressed the importance of strengthening and developing their economic relations. They agreed that Egypt will import Lebanese apples without restrictions.

The communique lauds the historic relations between Egypt and Lebanon. The two sides agreed to speed up the signing of a cultural agreement on educational, cultural, technical, scientific, and technological cooperation. They also agreed to exchange visits by sports and technical delegations.

The communique says that Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Rafiq al-Hariri agreed to establish a higher joint committee under the two prime ministers. The committee will meet alternately in Cairo and Beirut on a regular basis. The first meeting will be held in Beirut at a date to be set later.

Al-Hariri expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during the visit. He invited Dr. Sidqi to visit Lebanon. Dr. Sidqi promised to make the visit soon.

Meets Mubarak, Comments on Talks

NC1302111693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Cairo today. After the meeting, al-Hariri said he discussed with the president Egypt's assistance in securing implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He said the discussions also dealt with the overall Arab situation, the deportees, and the peace process, noting that the latter will be discussed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to the region.

Al-Hariri said the viewpoints of the two sides were identical, with President Mubarak promising to do his best to help Lebanon achieve an Israeli withdrawal pursuant to Resolution 425.

He said he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Asked if there are any new proposals on the deportees, al-Hariri said: We are waiting to hear the views of the United States, but we adhere to the implementation of Resolution 799.

Asked what Lebanon's position would be if the Security Council accepted the return of 100 deportees as part of a plan to return all of them, the Lebanese prime minister said: We cannot determine a position before studying the form and contents of the proposal, and this is what we are now doing.

Asked about Lebanon's views on separate agreements with Israel, al-Hariri said this is out of question. We seek the implementation of Resolution 425, on whose basis Lebanon entered the negotiations, he said, noting that the resolution provides for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories.

Asked if Lebanon is satisfied with its reconstruction plan and Arab contribution to it, al-Hariri said: Of course we are satisfied, and things are going as desired.

Al-Hariri on Deportees, Peace

NC1302151693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has voiced his country's appreciation for President Mubarak's assertion that Egypt supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon. Al-Hariri was speaking at a news conference he held on the outcome of his visit to Egypt.

Touching on the Palestinian deportees, al-Hariri stressed that this issue can be resolved only through UN Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for their immediate return to their homes. He reiterated the official Lebanese stand of refusing to allow any deportee to enter Lebanese territory—for humanitarian or other reasons—without obtaining an entry visa in advance.

Al-Hariri explained that failure to resolve the deportees issue will adversely affect the regional peace process.

During his news conference, al-Hariri emphasized that all Arab leaders are eager to achieve a just peace in which there is no victor or vanquished. He added that none of the parties concerned can accept the principle of deportation, even if these parties disagree with Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] political program.

Al-Hariri pointed out that Lebanon has not received an invitation to resume the peace talks, asserting that the implementation of international resolutions is all that Lebanon demands.

The Lebanese prime minister noted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected tour of the region will have an effect on the peace process.

Al-Hariri repeated that he welcomes Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Lebanon any time he wishes to visit.

Speaking about the economic situation in Lebanon, al-Hariri asserted that the Lebanese pound's position against the U.S. dollar is improving, explaining that the rate of exchange has dropped from 2,800 pounds to a dollar when his government took office to 1,700. He emphasized that his government is not seeking to fix the rate of the Lebanese pound, but rather to stabilize it.

Al-Hariri added that stability has been restored in Lebanon, with the state taking control of the situation. We are now prepared to receive Arab and foreign investment, which will contribute to Lebanon's reconstruction and infrastructure projects, he affirmed.

With its good credit rating in various states, Lebanon can pay the cost of reconstruction, al-Hariri said. He affirmed that his country always has paid its debts under various circumstances. He noted that the Lebanese foreign debt does not exceed $600 million.

The Lebanese prime minister said his country is developing the reconstruction plan without waiting for assistance to guarantee the freedom of its decision.

Touching on political sectarianism, he stressed that changing the situation is left to the Chamber of Deputies in accordance with the Constitution.

Responding to a question, al-Hariri concluded that it is not possible to disarm the southern Lebanese, who are suffering from the Israeli occupation. He said the weapons of the Lebanese resistance in the south will be withdrawn only when Resolution 425 is implemented.

Departs for Private Saudi Visit

NC1302175293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by an unidentified NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo on 13 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Cairo at 1700 today after a three-day official visit to the Egyptian capital. [passage omitted]

The following statement was issued a short while ago by the Cabinet General Secretariat: Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, accompanied by his wife Nazik al-Hariri, left Cairo this evening for Riyadh on a private family visit that will last until Sunday [14 February] evening.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar, and some aides and advisers will leave Cairo shortly for Beirut on a private plane. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Kazakh President's Visit to Cairo

Mubarak Greets Nazarbayev

NC1302113193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, his wife, and an accompanying delegation, arrived in Cairo today on a visit of a few days to Egypt. During the visit, President Nazarbayev will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation. President Mubarak met the Kazakh leader at the airport.

Mubarak, Nazarbayev Discuss Issues

NC1302192193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a closed meeting at the presidential office in Heliopolis this evening.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed a number of regional and international issues that interest both countries, particularly developments in the CIS and neighboring areas and Egypt's relations with these republics. They also reviewed the Middle East peace process in light of recent developments in the deportees issue.

The two leaders also discussed ways to bolster bilateral political, cultural, and economic relations. They will resume their talks tomorrow.

Nazarbayev arrived in Cairo at noon today on a three-day visit to Egypt at President Mubarak's invitation.

Mutual Agreements Signed

NC1402110693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a session of private talks at the presidential palace this morning.

Following the meeting, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the presidential press office, said that during the 90-minute session the two presidents discussed various aspects of bilateral relations and signed an agreement on cooperation.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that the Kazakh president showed an intense interest in Egypt's democracy and political life and that the talks involved a discussion of pluralism and press freedom in a democracy. During the talks, President Mubarak pointed out that press freedom in Egypt is unrestricted and that writers answer only to their conscience and sense of national loyalty, 'Abd-al-Mun'im said.

The head of the presidential press office said that the talks also dealt with constitutional matters and the role of legislative institutions. The two leaders, 'Abd-al-Mun'im added, discussed the need to maintain stability, curb the trends of violence and extremism, and preserve the real spirit of religion and its positive influence on human society.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that while yesterday's talks focused on Egypt's experience with economic reforms, today's talks focused on democracy and the need to encourage popular participation in politics and elections. The two presidents underlined the need for mass participation in elections to ensure that only those representatives truly expressing the will of society are elected and that a sound democratic system is established.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1013 GMT on 14 February transmits a second report on the talks which adds the following: "President Husni Mubarak and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev this morning signed an agreement outlining the bases of relations and cooperation between the two countries."

["Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Kazakh foreign minister signed a protocol on consultations between foreign ministries. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and his Kazakh counterpart signed a protocol on cooperation in information.

["Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa and his Kazakh counterpart signed a trade agreement protocol. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and his Kazakh counterpart signed two agreements—one on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and the other on encouraging mutual protection of investments.

["Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub signed a protocol in the field of Islamic call and affairs.]

Nazarbayev Offers To Mediate With Iran

NC1402215693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has held a news conference at his place of residence in al-Qubbah Palace. He said that he extended an invitation to President Mubarak to visit Kazakhstan and expects the visit to take place during the first half of this year. He called on investors in al-'Ashir Min Ramadan to establish a similar industrial city in Kazakhstan. He expressed his country's readiness to take part in renovating al-Zahir Bebers Mosque.

Nazarbayev denied that his country sold Iran material to produce nuclear weapons. He stressed that he is completely satisfied with the results of his visit to Egypt and his talks with President Mubarak, which dealt with international issues and peace in the Middle East. He said that views on these issues are identical. He noted that Egypt and Kazakhstan are agreed on the need to reduce nuclear weapons and ease tension in the world. He stressed that his country is prepared to take part in the peace process in the Middle East. He said that the legitimate rights of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples must be secured.

Nazarbayev pointed out that his country bans the formation of parties on religious grounds and that it is opposed to the spread of extremism, which leads to backwardness.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2126 GMT on 14 February reports on Nazarbayev's news conference and adds the following: "Nazarbayev expressed his desire to mediate between Egypt and Iran to bring their views closer together. He said that he is prepared to play this role, noting that this depends on the will of the two countries. He stressed that he offered his mediation efforts to President Mubarak and to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during his recent visit to Iran. He noted the importance of dialogue instead of confrontation.

["Responding to a question on the future of nuclear weapons in the CIS, Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Russia have such weapons. He said that Kazakhstan signed an agreement to reduce offensive weapons, noting that it is the only CIS country whose legislature has decided to implement this agreement. Under this agreement, these weapons will be reduced by 50 percent within seven years."]

Final Talks Held in Cairo

NC1502083793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a final round of talks at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this morning.

They continued discussions on regional and international developments, notably the Middle East situation, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the new world order.

The talks also dealt with ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

Joint Communique Issued; Visit Ends

NC1502112993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 February (MENA)—Egypt and Kazakhstan believe that the achievement of comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the Middle East is only possible through a peaceful settlement based on implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This came in a joint communique issued today at the conclusion of an official visit to Cairo by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

In this communique, the two countries also call for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the return of Palestinian deportees. The two sides also express concern over the policy of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The communique notes that the two sides discussed international and regional efforts to ban weapons of mass destruction. The communique also mentions that President Nazarbayev invited President Husni Mubarak to visit Kazakhstan, President Mubarak accepted, and the visit will take place at a date to be determined through diplomatic channels. Here is the text of the Egyptian-Kazakh joint communique:

At the invitation of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 13 to 15 February 1993.

Presidents Mubarak and Nazarbayev held several sessions of cordial and constructive talks on issues of common concern.

Expressing a common desire to further their cordial ties, the two sides discussed ways of promoting cooperation between Egypt and Kazakhstan in a manner suiting the interests of both countries and their aspirations for a better future.

During the talks, both sides exchanged views on political, economic, and social developments in the two countries as well as on a number of international issues. The two sides noted the need for regular consultations on various levels with the aim of consolidating bilateral relations and coordinating positions on matters concerning the need to promote international peace and stability.

The two sides reiterated their position that comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through peaceful means and on the basis of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two sides expressed the need to create a political climate conducive to progress in the peace talks and called for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the return of Palestinian deportees.

The two sides expressed deep concern over the continued aggression, massacres, and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They called for a political solution to the tragedy in keeping with international legitimacy.

The two sides discussed international and regional efforts to remove and get rid of weapons of mass destruction. They stressed the need for a balanced handling of all types of such weapons. In this respect, Kazakhstan was informed of the motives behind the position of Egypt and the Arab countries toward the chemical weapons ban treaty. The two sides expressed hope that circumstances will be created that allow the various nations to sign the treaty and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Nursultan Nazarbayev signed an agreement on the bases of bilateral relations and cooperation that opens new prospects for cooperation in the interests of the two countries.

As a result of the talks, which were characterized by constructive dialogue and mutual understanding, the following documents were also signed:

1. A protocol for consultations between the foreign ministries.

2. An agreement for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

3. A trade agreement.

4. An agreement to encourage and protect investment.

5. A protocol for media cooperation.

6. A protocol for cooperation in religious affairs.

The two sides expressed their determination to prepare and sign other bilateral documents to promote mutual and useful cooperation in various fields.

The Kazakh side expressed gratitude for the hospitality accorded to the members of the delegation during their stay in Egypt.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev extended an invitation to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to pay an official visit to Kazakhstan.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak thankfully accepted the invitation, the date of which will be determined through diplomatic channels.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0850 GMT on 15 February reports: "Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev this morning ended a three-day official visit to Egypt." MENA adds that Nazarbayev then left for Luxor and Aswan on a two-day private visit.]

Kuwaiti Speaker Visits, Discusses Damascus Declaration

Meets With Mubarak

NC1302122993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today. Following the session, al-Sa'dun said that the meeting was a good opportunity to relay to President Mubarak the gratitude of the Kuwaiti people for Egypt's support during and after Iraq's invasion of their country.

The Kuwaiti speaker said that the meeting was also an opportunity to exchange views on a number of issues of common concern to the Arab world, particularly the Damascus Declaration, and to explore the true situation concerning the Declaration.

The Damascus Declaration was a statement of principles and we believe that it provides a good opportunity because its signing was a substitute for the Arab Joint Defense Pact, considering that in most of its articles the Declaration adopts the same principles embodied in the Pact, the Arab League Charter, and the UN Charter, the Kuwaiti official said.

Al-Sa'dun said that if there had been any ambiguous or unclear issues, they were completely clarified during the conversation he had with President Mubarak today. He added: "I do not imagine that there are any differences concerning implementation of the Damascus Declaration. Implementation may begin within the next few days."

The Kuwaiti speaker expressed his belief that the meeting to be held shortly in Damascus among the finance and economy ministers of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration will put the Declaration on the right course and produce results in the very near future.

Concerning the number of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, al-Sa'dun said that the Egyptian position is clear on that matter and that Egypt still calls on the Iraqi regime to implement all UN resolutions. Iraq has presented documents to international bodies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, indicating that the number of prisoners is 617, al-Sa'dun said, adding that the documents show that some of the prisoners were snatched in the streets or rounded up in mosques. Al-Sa'dun said that the files on those prisoners will be completed in the near future.

Concerning the mediation efforts mounted by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to resolve the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, al-Sa'dun said that any efforts leading to the Iraqi regime upholding all UN resolutions—including those concerning the prisoners, drawing borders, and paying reparations—would restore the unity and solidarity of the Arab nation. But we have not yet heard anything clear, from 'Arafat or anyone else, the Kuwaiti official said.

Musa Disputes Speaker

NC1302133493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Damascus Declaration's clauses are based on the Arab League Charter's articles and the Joint Arab Defense Pact. The Damascus Declaration defines a specific framework for cooperation among a number of Arab League members in accordance with the Arab League Charter. Musa made this remark in response to Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun's statement that the Damascus Declaration can replace the Joint Arab Defense Pact.

Musa said: In my view the Damascus Declaration is still in an unfavorable situation because implementation of its clauses is periodically postponed and nothing has been implemented yet. He noted that the Damascus Declaration must be implemented and the scheduled meetings should take place so that it will be in a better position and cooperation within its framework may continue, as it is the first Arab document to be approved after the Iraq-Kuwait crisis.

On Kuwaiti Speaker al-Sa'dun's statement that the economy and finance ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries will meet in Damascus within days, Musa said: "All this is news to me."

Parliamentary Delegation Departs

NC1402110993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning at the end of a four-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Kuwaiti official also held talks with Egyptian officials to boost parliamentary cooperation.

Al-Sa'dun said before departing that in his meeting with President Mubarak the Damascus Declaration was discussed. He said the security agreement within the Declaration had been implemented before it was signed. Egypt and Syria, he explained, effectively implemented the agreement through their principled position during the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Musa Applauds U.S. Move on Bosnia-Hercegovina

NC1302132993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed optimism at the U.S. move regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. In a statement today, Musa pointed out that the Islamic states are not satisfied with the way the Serbian practices and aggressions against other ethnic groups in Bosnia are being dealt with. This is particularly true since the blockade imposed on the Serbs is not very tight and since the solutions proposed permit the Serbs to benefit from the results of the ethnic cleansing policy, he added.

Musa said he hopes that the U.S. move regarding Bosnia-Hercegovina will set things straight as far as dealing with the conflict in the Balkan region is concerned, particularly since this move rests on three points: Tightening the blockade on the Serbs and possibly using force should other means fail, appointing a special U.S. representative to try to work out a just and acceptable settlement, and not confining the parties to the currently proposed suggestions, which were not accepted by all parties.

Concluding his statement, Musa called on Russia to cooperate in the same direction to end the inhumane situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Musa Meets With U.S. Senate Delegation

NC1302213793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has voiced Egypt's concern over the rising use of violence against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories. He said Israel's repressive measures against them do not help create an appropriate climate for boosting the peace process and actually further complicate the situation resulting from its mass deportation of Palestinians.

The foreign minister was speaking during his meeting in Cairo this evening with a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator James Jeffords. At the beginning of the meeting, Musa explained Egypt's position on the current efforts to promote the peace process, noting the threat that the Palestinian deportees crisis poses to these efforts. The foreign minister also commented on the country's position on the U.S. secretary of state's forthcoming Middle East tour and ways of promoting Egyptian-U.S. political and economic ties.

Foreign Minister Previews Christopher's Visit

NC1402160093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 14 4 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt will begin next Thursday and will last for two days.

He said during the visit there will be discussion on regional developments, the current efforts to boost the peace process and eliminate the obstacles before it, and the deportees issue and ways of solving it in line with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Musa added that U.S.-Egyptian relations in various spheres and ways to boost them, particularly in the economic field, also will be discussed.

New U.S. Policy, Saddam's Actions Viewed

NC1302211993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Feb 93 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" Column by Samir Rajab]

[Excerpts] A new leadership has arrived at the White House and the United States has become the sole power in the world. Thus, special methods and specifications are required to deal with it, particularly in the absence of the competitor that played a direct and indirect role in determining the nature of bridges and ties linking Washington and the outside world.

For the record, the new U.S. leadership has expressed eagerness to create a favorable atmosphere with Egypt. This started with President Bill Clinton's contacts with President Mubarak and Clinton's emphasis on the considerable international confidence that Egypt enjoys, something that places increasing burdens on it both inside and outside the Middle East region, particularly with regard to the peace process.

Since Egypt's domestic and foreign policy is no longer left to chance, as was the case in the past, but is formulated with meticulous detail, President Mubarak has dispatched a special envoy, Dr. Usamah al-Baz [Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs], to conduct a comprehensive survey of the new U.S. policies so that the picture is clear before Mubarak starts his working visit to Washington in April. Dr. al-Baz returned from the United States with some basic facts; most importantly: The Department of Defense's policy no longer is confined to military action; it will play an effective political role as well. A three-member body consisting of the secretary of defense, the national security adviser, and the secretary of state will advise the president when he faces important decisions. The president used to consult the secretary of state alone in such circumstances. Economic affairs including trade, increasing the U.S. share in the world export market, and the heated competition with the other industrialized states take up a major portion of the new administration's attention and work. Emphasis will be put on replacing those who have stayed in their positions for a long time in a bid to bring order into the Clinton administration.

This is only part of the information which Dr. al-Baz brought back from the United States. But what I want to emphasize here is the systematic policy which Mubarak is following. Since assuming office, Mubarak has been eager to follow sound and systematic planning in everything he does, whether in domestic or foreign policy. Practical experience, the president emphasizes, has proven that our relations with foreign states can reflect positively or negatively on our living conditions. Hence comes the constant endeavors to consolidate ties with both East and West.

This, perhaps, could help explain Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's attempts to improve the atmosphere with Egypt, and only Egypt. President Mubarak has received several messages, all from the same source, on Saddam's desire to improve his image with Egypt. The latest was conveyed a few days ago by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat following his visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Now that all the doors are closed to Saddam Husayn, he cannot find anyone but Egypt and President Mubarak to rescue him. The fact that he has chosen this particular time is significant, for he knows that the new U.S. Administration, as is clear from its early days in power, is fully aware of Egypt's leverage, prestige, and regional and international influence. In addition, Saddam has fully realized that his isolation in the Gulf will last indefinitely as long as Egypt does not throw him a lifeline, particularly since all signs indicate that the flirtation between Iran and the Gulf states is getting more intense every day.

We appreciate the harsh conditions experienced by the Iraqi people, conditions which a ruler brought upon his people by failing to obey his conscience and his God. We stand firmly against any attempt to partition this Arab and Muslim people. At the same time, there is an indisputable fact which constitutes the cornerstone of Mubarak's policy; namely, that he does not leave anything to chance. When assessing a situation, he always considers all probabilities and any decision he makes has been subject to adequate study. In light of these basic facts, Saddam Husayn's messages are being studied and analyzed.

Success of Christopher's Tour Viewed

NC1202151993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Christopher's Tour and the Future of Peace in the Middle East"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the Middle East, which begins 17 February, is particularly important following the postponement of the multilateral talks. The talks were postponed due to the climate prevailing in the region regarding the Palestinian deportees issue. President Clinton decided to dispatch Christopher to the region to advance the peace talks, particularly the Arab-Israeli negotiations that began at the Madrid conference in 1991.

In fact, this U.S. initiative emphasizes several things, most important of which are: 1. The Clinton administration's desire for continued Arab-Israeli talks to reach lasting and stable peace in the region and solve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully once and for all. 2. The Clinton administration's interest in this vital area and its desire to guarantee its stability in order to safeguard U.S. interests.

The question being posed is: What can the current U.S. Administration, led by Clinton and Christopher, who is an expert on the region's affairs, do to achieve these goals? This is asked because establishing peace and stability in the region is the primary way for the region's peoples to improve their lives. Stability will enable these peoples to devote themselves to developing their countries. There can be no stability without equitable peace. Will the U.S. Administration be able achieve this goal, which the region's peoples and all peace-loving peoples in the world have nurtured?

It is needless to say that the reality of just peace has been defined and clarified by the international community, and that the Arabs, including the Palestinians, have approved it. Everyone knows that for peace to be fair, it must meet the following basic requirements:

1. Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

2. Giving the Palestinians the right to determine their future and fulfill their legitimate aspirations.

3. Removing all weapons of mass destruction from both parties, particularly the Israelis.

4. Ending the conflict and normalizing ties among all the parties concerned. This should be achieved as quickly as possible to alleviate the unprecedented suffering of the Palestinians.

It is well known that the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, require that a peaceful settlement satisfy these conditions. In other words, the international legitimacy's resolutions urge the parties concerned, particularly Israel, to exert efforts to achieve a fair peace in the region. This affirms the need to increase international pressure on Israel to obey the logic of right, justice, and law. Without such pressure there can be no progress in the peace talks. The party that is currently capable of exercising this pressure is the United States.

The new U.S. Administration seems to have new ideas which it may propose. It may decide to put a certain amount of pressure on Israel to make it return to its senses. This can be deduced from the fact that Christopher had said he would announce new steps to keep the Arab-Israeli peace process on track. Perhaps the fact that Israel softened its intransigent stand on the deportees and announced agreement to take back 100 deportees are some results of this pressure. This is not enough, however, because the deportees issue only can be solved by forcing Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate return of all deportees to their homes.

We maintain that the success of Christopher's upcoming tour depends on the extent of Washington's commitment and determination to implement the UN resolutions and emphasize the principles of the Madrid conference. The Arabs want a fair and comprehensive peace. Washington should adopt positive ideas that observe the rights of all parties, particularly under the new world order, according to which Washington has shouldered the responsibility of securing commitment to international legitimacy and established a new concept emphasizing the United Nations' role in safeguarding world peace and security.

Possible Libya-U.S. Lockerbie Talks Denied

NC1602105293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0921 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Libyan diplomatic sources in Cairo have revealed that Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes failed in his mediation efforts to convince the United States to have U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher meet his Libyan counterpart, 'Umar al-Muntasir, to discuss extraditing the two Libyans accused of being involved in the explosion of the U.S. aircraft over Lockerbie.

The sources told the economic newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM in its Cairo edition that Claes had informed Libya that his mediation ended three days after it started because of the determination he sensed from both the United States and Britain not to negotiate with Libya regarding the trial of the Lockerbie suspects. They reportedly believe that Security Council Resolution 731 is clear and specifies that the venue of the trial be either the United States or Scotland. The Libyan sources linked Libya's recent intense endeavors to find a solution to the issue to the U.S. and Western welcome of Israel's decision to take back 100 Palestinian deportees. The sources add that this stand is an implicit admission that Security Council resolutions can be divided or that some flexibility can be shown in their implementation. They noted that Libya had taken numerous steps to resolve the Lockerbie issue, but the United States and the West have not welcomed or responded to these steps. This is true even though all Libya is asking for is to have the two defendants tried in a neutral country. They add that the Libyan endeavors had recently intensified because the date for the coming Security Council meeting, set for April, is nearing. The meeting is held every four months to review the sanctions imposed on Libya.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have told AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who returned recently from the United States, informed Libyan officials that the Clinton administration will be no less strict than the Bush administration on the Lockerbie issue and that it will not negotiate over the implementation of Security Council Resolution 731. The same sources add that Egypt is once again trying to resume the Libyan-British dialogue on the Irish Republican Army. That dialogue stopped in November, when Libya declined to give explicit answers to British questions, something Britain saw as a reflection of Libya's desire to maintain its ties with the IRA.

The sources disclose that a Libyan-British meeting will be held early next month in Cairo in which Libya will answer all of Britain's questions to show its good will over the issue and in the hope that it could reflect on Britain's attitude on Lockerbie.

'Sinister' Motive Behind Israeli Position Viewed

NC1302075993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 13 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM's editorial, entitled "Beyond Deportation," says that Israel's resistance to returning the deportees is more than a gimmick by which Israel hopes to strengthen its hand at the talks or a simple reaction to the deportees' refusal to return unless they do so together. A deeper and more sinister motive behind the Israeli position is to exacerbate the differences between itself and the Arabs. Israel, the paper says, wants to rekindle Arab-Israeli hatred to create difficulties for the peace talks.

This Israeli goal, the paper adds, has actually been achieved, for the peace talks, originally slated for 20 February, have been put off until April. In addition, the talks will resume in a different atmosphere. A wall of mistrust and suspicion, if not loathing and recrimination, has arisen among the negotiating sides because of the crisis. This atmosphere will hinder the seriousness of the talks and diminish the prospects of progress, an outcome that suits Israel.

Foreign Ministry Warns Israel To Halt 'Escalation'

NC1302215493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2137 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Egypt today emphasized that it does not accept the unjustified Israeli escalation in the occupied territories.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated this evening that the Israeli forces' use of antitank rockets and explosive materials to demolish houses in the Gaza Strip is a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and all international norms and charters. He asserted that such acts constitute a real obstacle to the peace talks.

The spokesman added that Egypt calls on the Israeli Government to halt these acts, comply with legitimate rules, apply the law, and provide security for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The spokesman said Egypt is following with concern the news of this escalation. He declared that Israel, as the occupying power, is responsible for the safety and security of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Swedish Foreign Minister Departs Following Talks

NC1202131693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1129 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas left Cairo at noon today following a four-day visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak received the Swedish minister during her visit. She also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The Swedish minister's talks in Cairo dealt with efforts to push peace in the Middle East, the Palestinian deportees, and bilateral relations.

Former Defense Minister Abu-Ghazalah Resigns Post

NC1502200293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has accepted [former Defense Minister] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu- Ghazalah's resignation from his post as assistant to the president.

Libya

Libya 'Ready' To Hand Over Lockerbie Suspects

LD1302233793 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] At the end of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers meeting in Tunis, Libyan Ambassador to Morocco Muhammad Qasim al-Zuwayy announced that Libya is ready to hand over the two Libyans suspected of bringing down the American airplane over Lockerbie, Scotland, to American or British justice, if the International Court makes a decision to this effect.

For his part, AMU Secretary General Mohamed Amamou announced that, on behalf of the AMU, he will present to the UN Security Council a report on the medical effects of the UN air and military embargo imposed on Libya since last April.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discussion in Egypt Broadcast

LD1202221293

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1925 GMT on 12 February broadcasts an 84-minute recorded discussion between Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Egyptian intellectuals, thinkers, and researchers at the AL-AHRAM center for political and strategic studies in Cairo, which took place on 23 January 1993.

Al-Qadhdhafi is seated next to Ibrahim Nafi', the AL-AHRAM editor-in-chief, at the head of a huge oval-shaped table, around which the rest of the participants are sitting. The discussion is in the form of question and answers, spanning a number of Arab and international issues including pan-Arab unity, the Gulf war, the "new world order," the Libyan political system, inspired by the Green Book, and the impending water shortage crisis in the Arab world.

Al-Qadhdhafi stresses that the Arabs have lost control over their oil and are, therefore, in urgent need of pan-Arab unity to preserve their natural resources, power, and place in the world. He says that unless Egypt takes the initiative in achieving pan-Arab unity, it will never be brought about. Egypt, he says, is uniquely qualified and best equipped to take the lead in this effort.

He speaks at length on the water shortage crisis now threatening the Arab world and calls for linking the Egyptian delta and Libya's Green Mountain in northeast Libya as well as linking the Nile to the Libyan man-made river, as a way of pooling the water resources of Libya, Egypt, and Sudan.

He gives a run down of the political system being adopted in Libya, emphasizing that he and his fellow-revolutionaries have no role in governing or running the country. That, he said, is the function and privilege of the people who should rule themselves by themselves and be free to run their own affairs in a fashion that is truly democratic.

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets Liberian Envoy

LD1502180593 Tripoli JANA in English 1742 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, Nawwar [February] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau, held a meeting in Tripoli yesterday with Jusa Nivea, the minister of the affairs of the Council of Ministers in the transitional Liberian government which acted as an envoy of the government.

The envoy gave the secretary a message from the Liberian transitional government in respect of the developments in Liberia which asked for an increase in the efforts exerted by Libya towards the contribution in finding a settlement to the Liberian problem.

It is known that the Great Jamahiriyah had and is exerting major efforts towards reaching a peaceful solution to restore peace and stability for the Liberians.

The leader of the revolution had previously received the prime minister of the transitional Liberian government, within the framework of those efforts.

Moreover the Great Jamahiriyah is in constant liaison with the parties to the problem in Liberia in order help end the fighting between them within the pattern of finding a peaceful solution to the problem.

Morocco

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives 12 Feb

LD1202233993 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Morocco today heading an important delegation including senior officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. Discussing purpose of his visit, the Kuwaiti minister said:

[Begin Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad recording] I am happy to be here in Morocco and am honored to deliver a message from his highness the amir to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II. This message primarily concerns bilateral relations and also the new developments along the Iraq-Iran borders and issues concerning the Kuwaiti hostages and prisoners of war held in Iraq. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Received by King Hassan

LD1202234993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II this evening received at the royal palace in Fez Shaykh Sabah-al-Ahmad-al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived as an envoy of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir-al-Ahmad al-Sabah to his majesty the king.

During the audience, the Kuwaiti envoy delivered a message to His Majesty King Hassan II from the amir. [passage omitted]

Sudan

U.S. Embassy's Restrictions on Contacts Reported

NC1502101693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese newspaper AL-MASIRAH reports today that U.S. Embassy officials have issued a strong warning to all embassy employees, especially non-U.S. personnel, not to meet with any quarters or individuals who have connections with the Sudanese Government and to inform the embassy when such contacts occur. The newspaper says that the directives included instructions not to talk about U.S. Embassy activities in Khartoum.

AL-MASIRAH explains that the warning followed reports it published in previous editions on U.S. intelligence agencies' involvement in suspicious activity against Sudan.

Al-Mahdi Criticizes 'Harmful' Papal Visit

PM1502130593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Kamal Hasan and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Al-Mahdi Tells AL-HAYAH: "Harmful Visit. No Rapprochement With Regime in Khartoum"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, has criticized the visit which Pope John Paul II is expected to pay to Khartoum tomorrow. He described it as "harmful," and said, "it will affect the coherence of Sudanese society." Al-Mahdi vehemently criticized the National Islamic front, which supports the Sudanese regime, because "it is hastening the application of Islam in an erroneous way far removed from the international reality." He also denied the existence of any rapprochement with the present regime. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Khartoum yesterday al-Mahdi said that "as Muslims, we must strengthen our relations with the Christian brothers and people of all religions in accordance with the holy Koran. But I am opposed to his eminence the pope's visit at this particular time because of what it could do to the coherence of Sudanese society in terms of its two sectors, Muslims and Christians, thus hampering efforts to strengthen relations among religions. This is because, compared with Christians, Muslims in Sudan are experiencing the worst conditions of fragmentation—especially after the positive impact which the pope's visit will have on Christians."

Al-Mahdi said: "Muslims must be aware of the reality of the new world, which is divided into two parts: one seeking hegemony and domination and the other seeking to achieve a justice based on peace and international legitimacy. We believe that we should deal with the latter so as to achieve our interests. And Islamic and Arab leaderships should rid themselves of the spirit of subservience to the former, which they believe achieves for them protection and development."

Al-Mahdi urged "unity of ranks, because Muslims are regarded today as the most fragmented group in the world, and all disasters on their territories are self-inflicted.

Al-Mahdi criticized the al-Bashir government because "it is hastening the application of Islam in an erroneous way far removed from the international reality." [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi denied the existence of any rapprochement with the al-Bashir government. However, he hoped that a "peaceful solution" would be achieved. He stressed his refusal to embark on a "hostile" action against the regime, expressing his optimism about the imminence of a solution to Sudan's political crisis. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir on Papal Visit; Other Clerics Invited

EA1502093593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 Feb (SUNA)— Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has said that the visit of the Pope John Paul II to Sudan has fulfilled its objectives and reflected the religious tolerance between Muslims and Christians in the Sudan.

Gen al-Bashir made the remarks in a briefing he presented in the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Council's General Secretariat premises Sunday.

Gen al-Bashir praised the preparations for the visit. [passage omitted]

[Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 14 February also reports: "Lieutenant General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, met at noon today in his office at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers with Father (Benjamin Wani), archbishop of the Sudanese Episcopal Church. During the meeting, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir acquainted himself with the outcome of the conference of archbishops of the world Anglican churches, which was recently held in Cape Town, South Africa. Father (Wani) stated that the conference confirmed support for the peace efforts in Sudan. He said Lt. Gen. 'Umar agreed to the request of the Sudanese Episcopal church to invite the archbishop of Canterbury from England to visit Sudan as well as three heads of African churches from South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda."]

Commentary on al-Bashir's Views on Pope

EA1302201293 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] This is Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the voice of the Sudanese revolutionary armed struggle. Good morning, Saturday the 13 of February, 1993: This morning we shall present a repeated commentary of yesterday to be followed by revolutionary music. This is Radio SPLA, the voice of the Sudanese revolutionary armed struggle. Now over to that commentary:

At the height of his African tour, the pope has concluded a visit to Sudan. He saw for himself the suffering of the people and heard the cries of the suffering, but again Bashir has denied the allegation that there is lack of human rights and religious freedom in the Sudan. Bashir told the pope without any shame that Muslims and Christians in the Sudan are living in harmony. We hope that the pope didn't believe what Bashir told him, for that was a naked lie from a head of a state to a person like the pope. Anyway, Bashir has maybe only said a few (?truths) in his lies. The pope should not be deceived by that.

The slogans being carried by the people who welcomed the pope should ring louder in the pope's mind than any other lie from the president. Those calling for a state of human rights, for a state for religious freedom, peace, equality, and justice were not doing that just for the fun of it. In fact, there is no fun in speaking your mind to a fundamentalist government. Those who carried those slogans have already put their lives at risk and may disappear any time. This is saying the least. The religious freedom that Bashir claims is enjoyed by all Sudanese simply does not exist.

Let us begin first by the shari'ah law. What freedom can a Christian in Sudan enjoy when he is governed by Islamic laws? One is expected to behave exactly like a Muslim through what one (?works), what one eats and the way one prays. Can there be any religious freedom there? What religious freedom is Bashir speaking about when his government closed the churches in Dunqulah and Damazin?

Is there any freedom when the government of Bashir continues to arrest Catholic priests in Damazin and in western Sudan? The list of atrocities committed against the Christians in the Sudan is endless. Bashir knows this and cannot treat people to lies, let alone the pope. The pope didn't see a lot, mainly because his visit was brief, but also because the government was well prepared for the visit. The speech delivered by Bashir to welcome the pope at the airport was a well rehearsed thing and the pope should not believe anything said there. The other speech delivered to (?explain) Sudan's record of human rights is also a well rehearsed speech and there is no truth in it either. The pope should rely more on his Sudanese bishops and the Vatican ambassador. That is the only way to find the exact situation in the Sudan.

We only hope the visit of the pope will achieve its purpose - that of bringing world attention to the violations of human rights in Sudan. We hope now that the world will try to find out where [words indistinct] (?the homes) of displaced people in Khartoum. Bashir must tell the world why he evicted those displaced, mostly southerners, from Khartoum and took them against their will to the desert. Is that the freedom Bashir is talking to the world about? Bashir must explain to the world why he is still refusing to allow relief food to southern Kurdofan. He must explain to the world why his notorious Popular Defense Forces continue to massacre the

Nubah in cold blood. He must tell the world why his forces continue to burn down homes of innocent and poor people. He must tell the world why his forces take people as slaves from southern Kurdofan in order to give them terrible domestic work and use them for working in agricultural schemes. Bashir must tell the world why his forces are sexually abusing the Nubah women and girls without any steps being taken against them. Bashir must also tell the world why his government killed so many people in Juba last year. He must explain why his forces even reached the extent of killing workers of international relief agencies. He must tell the world why until now there are many people in jails in Juba without any proper reason. There are those who are believed to be dead. Bashir must answer for their death. Bashir must explain the burning of (?four) houses in Juba, at (Tator) and (Nologo) residential areas respectively and other places. He must explain the continuous harassment of Catholic priests, including arrests of those priests arrested last year. The world should also know the reason why Bashir expelled all foreigners from Juba. The pope had already greeted the hands dripping with Christian blood. Those are not hands of repentant sinners but those of mad muslim fanatics.

We hope that the pope's visit precedes a change for the suffering Sudanese masses. And that ends our commentary for today.

TNA Parliament Chairman Calls Papal Visit Successful

EA1402200593 Khartoum SUNA in French 0945 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Feb (SUNA)—Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, parliament, described the visit by his holiness, Pope John Paul II, to the country as successful. He said this during a news conference held in Khartoum on Saturday [13 February].

During the news conference, Mr. Khalifah said that Sudan and the Vatican had agreed on the establishment of solid relations between the two countries. The TNA chairman also said that the pope had told him that his visit to Sudan had left a good impression on him, that the war now taking place in southern Sudan was only a political war which might be solved through a negotiated solution, and that he had promised to provide any necessary help to restore peace in the country.

Mr. Khalifah also said that during his stay in the country the pope had examined the situation of minority Muslims in Christian countries and had stressed that the subject was worth studying [sentence as received].

Mr. Khalifah also said that it had been agreed that a dialogue between religions would be held next April in order for men of Islamic and Christian religions to examine issues of common interest.

The TNA parliamentary chairman also categorically denied allegations that there were political detainees in Sudan, and in this regard stressed that the Sudanese Government provided freedom of belief to all citizens without distinction. Regarding the peace process, Mr. Khalifah said that the Sudanese Government had reached an agreement with three rebel factions: They had agreed to resume peace talks between them.

Along the same lines, Mr. Khalifah said that the Sudanese Government undertook to convey food supplies to those citizens adversely affected by war in the south of the country, and he indicated that the rebel movement had violated the Nairobi convention concluded between the two sides by having intercepted a few boats loaded with relief supplies for disaster victims in southern Sudan.

Al-Bashir Receives Note From Pope After Visit

EA1302082593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of Council of Ministers, has received a cable of thanks from His Holiness Pope John Paul II of the Vatican, at the end of his visit to the country.

It reads: Your excellency, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC. I am pleased, at the end of my visit to Sudan, to send Your Excellency my profuse thanks for your warm reception and kind hospitality towards me. I pray for your country and your beloved people more progress, unity, cooperation, and peace in the forthcoming peace discussions and respect for all. May the Lord bless you and your colleagues in the RCC.

Iraqi Envoy, TNA Official Discuss Relations

EA1502095593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Feb (SUNA)—Chairman of the external relations committee of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), Prof Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, met here Sunday [14 February] the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd-al-Samad Hamad.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations and regional and international developments of mutual concern.

The meeting emphasised the importance of uplifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and the importance of implementing the United Nations resolution on the return of the Palestinian deportees to their country.

Egyptian Authorities Arrest, Release Sudanese Official

EA1302081893 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Hala'ib, 12 Feb (SUNA)—The Egyptian authorities have arrested a Sudanese official claiming that he had crossed the borders alongside the longitude 22 which the Egyptian Government alleged as its right.

Imad Awad Ahmad, the director of the Sudanese Red Crescent in Hala'ib province was released last Tuesday [9 February] after he had been warned of not repeating the so-called violation.

Awad, while in prison, had been tortured and humiliated, a matter that caused him an injury at his right hand.

Foreign Minister Relieved of Post, Appointed Ambassador

NC1302181993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Feb (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Sudanese prime minister, issued a decree today relieving 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul from his post as foreign minister and appointing Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih in his place.

The decree also appointed Sahlul as an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry with the status of minister.

New Foreign Minister Abu-Salih Sworn In

EA1502085393 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14th February (SUNA)—Newly-appointed Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has [been] sworn in before Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC).

Engineer Muhammad 'Uthman Mahjub has also [been] sworn in before the (RCC) chairman as minister of housing and public utilities in the central state.

The ceremony was attended by Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the (RCC) deputy chairman, Jalal Ali Lutfi, the chief justice, and other officials.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Views Relations With Iraq, PLO

LD1602121493 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1055 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Rabat, 16 Feb (MAP)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, has ruled out normalization of relations between his country and Iraq in the present conditions. In a meeting with the press in Rabat the Kuwaiti minister, who is currently on an official visit to Morocco, emphasized that for relations between his country and Iraq to be restored to a normal level, Iraq must implement the UN Security Council resolutions in full.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said: "Kuwaitis give the most support to the Iraqi people and the blockade against these people is in response to the stand of their rulers."

In answer to a question about whether his country wishes to remove Saddam Husayn from power, the chief Kuwaiti diplomat replied that the Iraqi people alone are entitled to choose their own rulers.

With regard to Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations, which have deteriorated following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said that time is not yet ripe for the normalisation of these relations.

The Kuwaiti minister asserted that his country did not expel any Palestinians after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and that what happened was that a large number of Palestinians left Kuwait immediately after the invasion. He recalled that the stand taken by the PLO during the Gulf war had no effect on Kuwait's support for the legitimate Palestinian cause.

On another matter, the Kuwaiti foreign minister confirmed that the "Damascus Declaration" signed by the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria is still in effect and "is not dead yet," as some have alleged. He announced that the next few days will see important moves in this respect.

In this context, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah stressed that no one in the Gulf wants the isolation of Iran because it is a country with strength and a position (in the region).

Regarding the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over the Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb islands, the Kuwaiti minister said he hopes for a peaceful settlement of this dispute and that force will not be used in dealing with this problem.

Russian Defense Minister Arrives To Sign Document

LD1502183693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1737 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Feb—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived here today from Abu Dhabi on a two-day visit to Kuwait. He was welcomed at the airport by Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim; chief of the General Staff of the Army and the armed forces, Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid; and Defense Ministry undersecretary Faysal al-Dawud.

In a statement to the press the Russian minister stressed his country's eagerness to bolster relations with Kuwait in various political, military and economic fields. He said: This stance is an extension of Moscow's previous stances, represented in supporting Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion. He pointed out that his visit to Kuwait is to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Russian and Kuwaiti defense ministries and to hold talks with the Kuwaiti leaders on political, economic and military issues.

The Kuwaiti defense minister praised Kuwaiti-Russian relations, pointing out that the memorandum of understanding would define the broad lines of a defense agreement between the two countries. He added that Kuwait would not forget the role of the former USSR and the present Russian Federation and their firm and just stance against the Iraqi regime and its invasion of Kuwait. He said that the memorandum of understanding due to be signed would constitute the seeds of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD1602122593 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] At 1000 today his highness the amir received Russian Federation Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Minister of the Amir's Office Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, Director of the Amir's Office Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, and the Russian ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Also this morning, his highness the amir received Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Ends Visit to Turkey

LD1202223393 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh Sabah-al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Ankara today after a two-day visit to Turkey, during which he delivered a message from his highness the amir to Turkish President Turgut Ozal. He also had talks with the acting Turkish foreign minister.

In a joint press statement issued on the visit, Kuwait expresses its appreciation of and admiration for the principled and honorable role played by the Turkish Republic in support of justice and right. The statement says that the two sides discussed the situation in the Gulf region in light of the continuing violations by the Iraqi regime with regard to the international borders of Kuwait, the Iraqi regime's false claims on Kuwait, and the procrastination by this regime in the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

In this context, Turkey calls on the Iraqi regime to implement in full all the international resolutions and to respect Kuwait's sovereignty over its territory. The statement says that Kuwait and Turkey stress that the Iraqi regime's continued challenge to the international resolutions constitutes a direct threat to security and stability in the region, and works to keep it in a state of perpetual tension.

Kuwait and Turkey appeal to the international community to force the Iraqi regime to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy and not to allow this regime to wriggle out of its international commitments. Kuwait and Turkey express their backing and support for the efforts aimed at the return of the banished Palestinians, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 799, and calls on the international community to take a firm stand vis-a-vis what the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected to, and to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Kuwait and Turkey also express anxiety at the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan and support for the constructive role of the Islamic Conference Organization in defense of Islamic causes throughout the world.

Oil Minister Comments on Future Plans, OPEC

LD1302101093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Bonn, 13 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is now preparing an internal study on its external oil investments and that in the light of this study, the corporation will define its future plan. [passage omitted]

Concerning Kuwait's attitude to OPEC's inclination to reduce members' output to maintain oil price stability, al-Baghli replied: "Kuwait understands and cooperates greatly with the organization and we will make a decision in line with our interest and special circumstances." However, he stressed that Kuwait will not be the odd one out and hopes that a suitable agreement will be reached. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Romanian Official Departs Doha After Visit

JN1602074893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 15 Feb (WAKH)—Gheorghe Tinca, Romanian deputy foreign minister, left Doha this evening following a three-day visit to Qatar as part of a regional tour. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the Romanian official held talks with Qatari officials on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanese Prime Minister Arrives on 'Private' Visit

LD1302224393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Feb (SPA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived at King Khalid International Airport this evening on a two-day private visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir and a number of Lebanese brothers.

Meets With Crown Prince

NC1602085193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] According to a NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY report from Riyadh, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met last night with Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, to discuss the current situation in light of regional developments and Arab contacts prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the Middle East. The agency has learned that Prime Minister al-Hariri will leave Riyadh this morning for Kuwait, where he will be received by Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to discuss current developments and bilateral relations. Al-Hariri will return to Beirut from Kuwait this evening.

The prime minister described his meeting with the Saudi crown prince as excellent, and explained that the talks dealt with all political issues on the agenda in the region, such as the deportees, the implementation of UN Resolution 425 in southern Lebanon, the Middle East peace conference, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, especially in view of Riyadh's constant contacts with the U.S. Administration. He emphasized the private nature of his visit to Riyadh.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD1602111293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Feb (SPA)—His excellency the prime minister of Lebanon, Mr. Rafiq al-Hariri, left Riyadh today after a private visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir, Lebanese Ambassador Zuhayr Hamdan, a representative from the Royal Protocol Office, and a number of Lebanese officials.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD1602104193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0940 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Feb (SPA)—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman arrived in Riyadh this morning.

He was met at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Libya's al-Muntasir Arrives, Met by Foreign Minister

LD1502193593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His excellency 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Riyadh this evening. He was received at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Talks With Kazakh Envoy

LD1402222493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, today met with Mr. Asina Aliyev, special envoy of his excellency the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who delivered to his highness a written message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, from His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Issues of common interest were reviewed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Thanks Clinton for Bosnia Initiative

JN1302154793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1454 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, has thanked President Bill Clinton for his initiative to bring peace, security, and stability to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

A cable from Shaykh Zayid to Mr. Clinton adds: The announcement by the United States that it is willing to be directly involved in the peace process in Bosnia to staunch blood and end hostilities in the Balkans and bring security and stability to this strategic part of the world is a measure of Washington's commitment to sublime human values and its disassociation from whatever contributes to the spread of chaos and destruction.

A consistent U.S. policy in this regard will prove, as ever, an underpinning of the United Nations and the Security Council, said the cable. It will also send the message that, within the framework of the new world order, the international community is anxious to see world security and stability founded on justice and legitimacy. His highness wished success for international efforts to end the killings, destruction, and rape in Bosnia-Hercegovina so that its people may live in tranquility and then become active members in the community of nations.

Shaykh Zayid Hospitalized for Medical Tests 10 Feb

JN1102181993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Feb (WAKH)—The Presidential Office in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has announced that UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan was admitted to the hospital yesterday, Wednesday, 10 February 1993, for some medical tests.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said that his highness, God willing, will be discharged from the hospital after the tests are completed.

Government Announces Purchase of 436 Leclerc Tanks

LD1402130093 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The United Arab Emirates have announced the purchase of 436 Leclerc tanks. The contract is thought to be worth $3.5 billion. This is the first time that the Leclerc tank is being sold abroad.

Yemen

Canadian Businessman Released by Tribe 12 Feb

NC1202082393 Paris AFP in English 0742 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 12 (AFP)—Mike Schmitz, a Canadian businessman of German origin, was released early Friday after being detained by a tribe for three weeks, a reliable source here said.

Schmitz, who works for the shipping company Sterling Air Services, was released after 24 hours of talks between Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, head of the al-Islah party, the main Islamic party in Yemen, and the kidnappers.

The Canadian was snatched by members of the Al-Hada tribe near the village of Zarajah, 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of Sanaa. They demanded that for the release authorities hand over to them two suspects in the murder last December of a member of their tribe.

Sanctions Commission's Performance Protested

JN1502105693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpts] New York, 15 Feb (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the Sanctions Commission's performance during its 86th meeting, and its determination to cause harm to the Iraqi people and deprive them of the requirements of their daily life.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that the decisions of the Sanctions Commission were not fully in harmony with the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the foreign minister's letter:

Your Excellency:

Once again, I find myself compelled to note Iraq's protest and objection to the Sanctions Commission's performance. The commission's 86th meeting on 28 January 1993 showed a clear determination to cause harm to the Iraqi people and to deprive them of the basic requirements of their daily life.

Your Excellency, in my previous letters, the latest on 31 December 1992, I have explained that the commission's action was obstructed by the U.S. and British envoys' rejection of most of the orders submitted to it despite the fact that these orders are within the framework of the Iraqi people's basic daily living needs. The examples I will give show the flagrant U.S. and British rejection of these orders, as follows:

1. An order to supply 39 [figure as received] sewing machine needles submitted by the Jordanian Muhammad al-Muhtasib Company.

2. An order to supply textiles for the production of women's and children's wear, submitted by the Jordanian Bisan Textiles Company and the Dulun factory company [name as received].

3. An order to supply textiles required in making female cloaks, submitted by the Jordanian Sarah Company.

4. An order to supply wooden boards for use in schools and hospitals, submitted by the al-Kamal Industrial Company.

5. An order to supply electrical appliances, submitted by the Atlas Company.

Despite the protests made by the representatives of Morocco, Djibouti, New Zealand, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, and Spain, and their deliberations on these supply orders, the U.S. and British representatives insisted on their stands although similar orders like those for women and children's clothes were approved in previous meetings. The U.S. and British stands were based on feeble pretexts claiming that these orders would contribute to the consolidation of the Iraqi industrial capability. Regrettably, the Japanese representative shared the U.S. and British representatives' stand when he objected to the supply of 10,000 kitchen extractor fans to Iraq by Turkish firms.

Your Excellency, we would like to explain that the Sanctions Commission's decisions did not adhere to the letter and spirit of the Security Council's resolutions on Iraq. This is proved by the fact that Paragraph 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 allowed Iraq to obtain the essential materials and supplies for basic civilian needs as specified in the UN secretary general's report dated 20 March 1991. Proceeding from this, Paragraph 35 of that report, which pertains to energy, referred to the need for units and spare parts to enable Iraq to meet its people's energy requirements as soon as possible.

Your Excellency, the Iraqi people have shown their desire to turn a new page in dealing with the new U.S. Administration. This was expressed by the highest leadership in Iraq. Consequently, we hope this administration will respond favorably to my country's endeavors and that such a response will be positively reflected in the meetings of the Sanctions Commission and other Security Council commissions. The continuation of the policy pursued by the former U.S. Administration will not serve the objectives and aims of the UN Charter. Please circulate this letter as a Security Council document. Please accept my profound appreciation.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] 13 February 1993

Former U.S. Attorney General Visits Baghdad

Talks With Saddam

JN1302194993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1827 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general.

During the meeting, a comprehensive, in-depth political dialogue was held. It dealt with the current situation, Iraqi-U.S. relations in the era of the new administration, Iraq's vision of the future of these relations, and the world situation as a whole.

President Saddam Husayn said that the world has lost a great deal, and the most serious loss has been the loss of the standard of justice.

His excellency added that a standard of justice exists among individuals at different levels. However, it is nonexistent among many authorities. Nevertheless, he added, because the role of authority has become more influential than it was before, much of the behavior and ethics of authority have been communicated to the ordinary citizen, so much so that the citizen has become a partner to authority's intentions, although such a citizen may have not decided as a human being to take part in such intentions on a basis of free choice and after facts have been fully communicated to him without being divided or distorted. He added that this a major defect in the world of today.

The president affirmed that the big powers will discover that they are not the only ones that can reshape the world using the big stick, or by force and that, in our opinion, those who win in this world are those who brandish their humanitarianism and not their big sticks outside their national borders.

His excellency said that unilateral actions are against the principle of dialogue. He added: I believe that any ruler or establishment cannot respect man's humanitarianism in the said country if they do not respect the people's humanitarianism outside that country, and I believe that they will not be realizing their people's interests because nowadays humanitarianism outside the borders influences humanitarianism within the borders. Therfore, if the Iraqis, Russians, Chinese, Indians, and others do not believe that the U.S. ruler is fair, the latter cannot realize either his people's humanitarianism as he should, or be fair to his people as he should. From this premise, the role of humanitarianism in international politics has become more international than was the case one or two decades ago.

His excellency explained that the problem lies in whether President Clinton will hold firm before the pressures that some are exerting to make him follow in Bush's footsteps, or whether his calculations of profit and loss are based on the assumption that he should be engaged in a military action. Those people want to delude him into believing that he can successfully achieve what Bush had failed to achieve. This is because there are some who try to make Clinton's antiwar past appear as a personal weakness, while this position was in fact considered a sign of strength.

President Saddam Husayn said: We and humanity consider this aspect of Clinton's personality a sign of strength. The question is whether the media and the advice given to him will make him stick to this position, or whether he will abandon it, now that he has become President. Very briefly, will he try wisdom or arms?

The United States, his excellency added, has no need for weapons to confirm its humanity, since any U.S. President can possibly use weapons to devastate an entire area, the U.S. firepower being fantastic. Will the U.S. President try force in the hope that he will succeed where Bush failed to fulfill the wishes of certain circles, particularly Zionist circles, against Iraq and other countries, or will he opt for the road of wisdom that Bush shied away from.

The President of the greatest nation on earth in terms of its destructive power needs to try wisdom rather than the force of arms.

Is he prepared to listen to Iraq's viewpoint? If he is, his excellency added, I believe that we will simply lay the groundwork for new relations based on mutual legitimate interests and mutual respect, leaving the past behind us. These relations may even be built on trust. From then on the legitimate interests may become clear, and the relations more clearly defined.

Following is the text of the dialogue:

Mr. Ramsey Clark: There are many problems in the world awaiting solutions; we hope humanity will be in better shape.

His excellency the president: It is regrettable that the world has lost much, the most serious loss being a standard of justice. A standard of justice exists among individuals at different levels, but it is nonexistent among many authorities. But since the role of authority has increased in influence, many of the behavioral practices and morals have begun to die, so much so that the ordinary citizen has sometimes begun to share the intention of the authority without having made a decision based on freedom or full and undoctored facts. There is a big imbalance in the world of today. Therefore, no one any longer believes that he is safe when he is in the right. I believe a feeling such as this is not confined to one country to the exclusion of other nations. This is the case in the third world, and if this should happen in the first world as it is now conventionally called, the result would be the polarization of the world into power centers. In this case the division would not be into two parts only, since some will be forced to reward the opposing force by taking sides as a matter of self-preservation.

His excellency added: Thanks to your long and profound experience, you know that understanding between two parties on something, within reasonable limits, can be possible. However, this understanding will become difficult if the world in divided into more than two poles. Then, prospects will become more serious if the balance is disrupted through the alliance of any two or three poles against a third or a fourth pole.

That is how I see the world. However, the nature of matters leads to the firm belief that this is not the final picture. This picture will be followed, we believe, with a model of fairer understanding.

As I said to you during our last meeting, the big powers will come to realize that it is not only through the force of the big stick that the picture of the world can be drawn. We believe that the winner in this world is the one whose humanity, not big stick, extends beyond his national boundaries.

His excellency said: On this occasion, I would like to thank you not for your humanitarian duty which others also carry out but I would like to draw attention to the humanitarian specimen which confronts any fault wherever these specimens who have a common bond of humanity are, whether in the United States, Britain, Iraq, or in any other place. Since you were one of these specimens, it was natural for you to undertake what you have done. However, let me describe your action as being one of the bravest actions, and it is the most principled thing to see an American, a former attorney general, carry out this role in the world we have described.

Ramsey Clark: You were generous to me when you presented the issue in this way. The fact, as I see it, is that I should be grateful to you and to the Iraqi people. We are grateful to Your Excellency for your courage and steadfastness as other Third World countries are facing dangers similar to the ones Iraq has been facing. If the major powers are allowed to control the world, the situation in the world will be bad. When you allowed men and my accompanying delegation to visit your country in February 1991 and gave us an opportunity to travel for more than 2,000 miles to al-Basrah and other areas, you, in fact, gave us an opportunity to share the Iraqi people's suffering and to convey to the world what is taking place in Iraq.

Clark added: Therefore, we thank you because you made us share with the Iraqis' their difficulties and defend them before the world. Our struggle will continue and we are earnest in the endeavor to break the shackles the major powers imposed on Iraq and to liberate it, in particular, from the unjust economic blockade and from the policy of terrorism directed by some forces against Iraq, and, in fact, to achieve its human dignity.

Yesterday, I, together with a photographer, visited al-Qadisiyah Hospital. I listened to a doctor who said wise things. A sick child in that hospital was in need of a kind of milk which does not exist on the Iraqi market. The mother of the child said that it is not expensive, but it is not available because of the blockade. When I asked the doctor about the child's condition, he said: He will die tomorrow. The doctor added: We, the Iraqis, believe that the war continues as long as women, old men, and children die as a result of the shortage in food and medicine.

Hence, I stress that the most important thing to me is to break the blockade imposed on Iraq and to achieve justice and peace. Breaking the blockade is an urgent and important issue to me. This issue does not only concern the Iraqi people and their children alone but the dignity of the whole world, particularly the dignity of poor people in the world.

Clark added: We are attempting to break the embargo imposed on Iraq in a manner that will preclude the enforcement of such an embargo on other peoples in the future. In other words, breaking the embargo must be an act emanating from man's will and strength, and not from a position of weakness. The efforts being made with the Security Council could result in lifting this embargo and removing the dangers facing you at present and in the future. I am sure that once the embargo is lifted, life and prosperity will prevail anew in this country.

The president: I should say that there are many people in the African continent who are facing death on a daily basis, thanks to another form of embargo—one imposed on their countries by some wealthy nations—and designed to rob these countries of their economic resources and to keep their peoples poor and in a state of bloody conflicts. This is what they wanted to achieve in their dealings with Iraq. They wanted to starve Iraqis and plunder their resources, particularly oil. In other words, it is a new type of colonialism. Hence, if Iraq wins this battle, all mankind will be vindicated.

Clark said: The world was the scene of a conflict between two poles which were engaged in an arms race, particularly in the field of nuclear armament. Now that one pole has unilaterally reached the peak in terms of world influence and power, it poses a danger to the entire world if its moves are not checked.

If Iraq, a small Third World country, manages to maintain its steadfastness and to safeguard its freedom and sovereignty, it will set an example to be emulated by Third World nations, an example embodying its ability to hold out and meet challenges.

The United States might be able to handle the situation in Somalia as it wishes. But, it cannot cope with all international problems as it wishes, because it does not have the sufficient means to do so.

Clark went on to say: Today, Mr. President, is a particularly sad day. However, it is full of lessons. It is the anniversary of the day on which the al-'Amiriyah shelter was destroyed while holding a large number of citizens. It is an anniversary that shows what technological advancement could do if it is abused. Actually, the bomb called a smart bomb was merely a stupid monster that killed women, elderly people, and children. This anniversary places over our shoulders the responsibility for putting up a fierce opposition, and for ending any use of advanced technology in this manner. This anniversary also places on our shoulders the responsibility for restraining superpowers to prevent any use of modern technology to inflict such a grave harm. Our consolation in this regard is that Iraq, despite this calamity, has survived, continues to exist, and will live and triumph. This means that superpowers can inflict pain, but cannot impose their hegemony.

Clark added: Would you allow me, Your Excellency the President, to move on to another subject, that is, the issue of the new administration in the United States. I believe that the Clinton administration is before a new genuine opportunity to achieve peace. It is different from the Bush administration. Please, allow me to explain.

When I met you last time, Your Excellency was right when you described George Bush as a man of war and when you said that he wanted to attack Iraq under any pretext in order to destroy it. This description applies to Bush because he is the most aggressive U.S. President in the history of the United States. The man began his career as a pilot in the World War II and spent most of his life in the military. He then moved to the CIA and experienced the cold war with all its hostility. This career experience has refelected on his life and made him act aggressively.

With regard to President Clinton, he is certainly different from George Bush. Clinton did not have a military history; he stood against the Vietnam war. Clinton is the first U.S. President born after the World War II and the first U.S. President to assume power after the cold war. In his election campaign, he concentrated on the issue of The United States emerging from the economic crisis. He will certainly find an opportunity to remain a president for another term if he succeeds in tackling the internal economic situation, increasing production, and abandoning international conflicts. If he wants to succeed, President Clinton should avoid any large military burdens, expenditures, or commitments that Bush failed to abandon. This does not mean that the Pentagon and the trends of some persons, who lean toward the use of force, have changed, but Clinton, as a politician, is clean, in the Socratic meaning of the word. He knows that if he fails to achieve the big economic gains that he pledged to attain, he will become like Carter whose failure resulted in keeping the Republicans in the White House for a full 12 years.

Clark said: I know, as you also know Your Excellency, that Clinton's problem is that he cannot show leniency out of a fear that he will be accused of weakness on the foreign policy level. Therefore, Clinton needs to be firm and express a different point of view through the United Nations.

Clinton's priority, with regard to domestic affairs, is to offer a health care program, because the standard of health services has declined as a result of the shortage in funding for this purpose. In order to show his interest in this issue, he appointed his wife to supervise the health program. We have to familiarize the health ministers, the ambassadors to the Security Council member states, and the delegations that visit Iraq with the health harm which the embargo is afflicting on the children of Iraq. We should also show all those concerned and public opinion films, medical reports, and UNICEF reports which embody the suffering of the children of Iraq. The world must know what the embargo is doing.

The president said: I will relate to you an anecdote from the past, which could be termed peculiar. When Iraq was under Ottoman rule, the Iraqi people resisted the occupation. However, resistance to this occupation was neither organized nor unified. This continued to be the case until 1916, when the sweeping Arab Revolt erupted. Prior to this revolt, the Iraqis resisted Ottoman rule, each in his own area and according to his own means. They declared their rejection of injustice, using the means available to them, and as much as they could. Our uncles were among the Iraqis who resisted injustice. One day, clashes took place between them and Ottoman soldiers. In this battle, my grandfather's brother on my mother's side was martyred. As regards my grandfather on my mother's side, he was wounded by a bullet that penetrated his chest. He did not die instantly. He continued the death throes for several days, using the medicines that could be found in rural areas. One day or two days prior to his death, a visitor knocked on his door to call on him. The prevailing habit at the time was that the family used to seek the permission of the head of the household before any visitor is allowed inside. My grandfather was the head of the household at the time. So, somebody came to inform him that so and so person had come to visit him, seeking reassurance about his health. My grandfather requested that the visitor be asked to wait. Then, he asked the family to bring him a headdress, to help him put it on, and to help him sit up so that he would appear in good health. This was because the visitor did not mean, as my grandfather said, "to reassure himself about my health, but rather to know when I am going to die." This was because the person in question was his enemy.

The president added: The problem with the governments that committed aggression against us is similar to this story. They are not unaware of the facts or results of the blockade imposed on a third world nation. Moreover, all the anti-Iraq resolutions have not been adopted out of unawareness of the destruction that would result and of what would happen to mothers, children, and even fathers. How can an orphaned child who lost his father live? Humanitarianism cannot be divided, and if we have no humanitarian sense toward people, there will be no humanitarian sense toward children.

Following up on what is written in the Western newspapers, I have found out that only a small number write about the importance of lifting the blockade, as it hurts the Iraqi people's humanitarianism. Rather, they concentrate on the idea that time has proved that the blockade has not achieved its goal.

Israel also voices its concern because Iraq, under the blockade, will be compelled to develop agriculture and will search for new ways to develop industry. You know that Israel has its lovers in the United States, France, Britain, and other states. Some papers also deal with the issue from another angle. They urge the state they represent to hasten to normalize relations with Iraq because if it does not do that, another state or other states will go ahead of it and normalize relations with Iraq.

His excellency added: Hence, you see that all the calls have no human factors in them and are based on interests. We have not read about any call that was based on a human concept. Humanitarian calls have come from ordinary people who do not have power or newspapers such as Mr. Ramsey Clark. Therefore, I believe that we should encourage the sincere people like you, and to extend invitations to such a circle. As for governments, we have to address them with practical aspects.

I am afraid that too much talk about the effect of sanctions will drive those who have no human feelings to be optimistic of the near collapse of Iraqi society—as the case with my grandfather, may God have mercy on him—as long as they have no food or medicines. Nevertheless, I find Mr. Clark's advice to be beneficial, but we should concentrate on dealing through this advice with people, not with those who in authority, with whom practical aspects should be stressed as I said. These rulers know the humanitarian aspects when they are not in power, but when they are in power they come under the mercy of pressure forces and their utilitarian objectives.

I said this to explain the tragedy of the third world, which is summed up in the fact that the governments do make their decisions on humanitarian or inhumane bases, or on what is legitimate or illegitimate, or justice versus injustice. They make their decisions on the basis of opportunities and possibilities. These calculations are based on a practical and pragmatic basis.

Ramsey Clark: This is a wise and realistic representation of the situation. There is a difference between the government and the people. The U.S. media do not care about truth at all. They are political instruments. The media is produced in the same way the bomb and Cruise missiles are manufactured. Therefore, the American people heard and read about the clean surgical strikes in the period between August 1990 and February 1991, and they hailed it because they did not receive the truth as it was. This is something the U.S. Administration knows. But as of the beginning of 1992, the American people began to know the truth, therefore, they withdrew their support for the Gulf war. This was demonstrated clearly in the electoral campaign when Bush was forced to reduce emphasis on the war because he knew that the American people did not like the propaganda being imposed on them.

Even before the war, in January 1991, after Bush sent half a million soldiers to Saudi Arabia, and after the Security Council adopted its Resolution 678, Bush had not received the Congress' approval. The peace organizations launched huge campaigns against war until the day when the Senate voted for the resolution on 9 January 1991, one week before the aggression began. The resolution received 52 votes for and 47 against, with a margin of only three votes. This small number of votes could have prevented the war had some of them been absent or had they voted against the war.

The president said: If we had a quarter of the technical and media potential used against us and a quarter of the required ability to communicate facts as they are to the American people, the American people would have taken a different stand toward their rulers, the allies, and the war. But what can we do if our radio is hardly heard abroad, if our television transmissions cannot go beyond our borders, and if we have no press being read abroad? We are at a disadvantage in terms of the available opportunities. We have not been given the same chance that the U.S. Government or the Western governments enjoy. Therefore, any result will be unjust.

We are required to struggle and struggle to communicate the facts as they are to the world's nations. What Clark has said is totally correct, and I have no comment on it. However, it is enough for me to ask: What kind of rulers are these, and what is happening to the rulers of today's world. Any psychologically, socially, and politically simple person will not adopt a decision for war by a majority of three or four votes. The decisionmaker should have considered this result and should have either said he needed more time to persuade his people or should have refrained from declaring war. In light of this, what if we imagine that the nation was not acquainted with the facts as they were, that Bush knew that, and that the constitutional establishment gave its approval by only a majority of four votes. Despite this, he decided to go to war while he was supposed to hesitate.

The president added: Let us move to the other side of the ocean. Former French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said that French President Mitterrand's calculations were based on the idea that any delay in France's participation in the war would negatively affect its interests in the Middle East. But what does the right view says? It says that France lost its interests in Iraq and other areas for a time as a result of its participation in the war. Despite all this, no Western ruler asks: How many children, women, and men were killed during that war? However, such a question exists among the American, French, and other peoples. Therefore, we should work among these citizens and tell them that democracy in the United States is being threatened, that a U.S. monopoly of decisionmaking is threatening the American citizen's humanitarianism, and that allegations that the United States uses dialogue and calls for it to reach the fact are untrue.

In light of this unilateral position against dialogue, I believe that no ruler or institution, regardless of their national humanitarianism in their country, can respect humanitarianism in their country unless they respect that humanitarianism outside their country. Nor will they achieve their people's interests because humanitarianism outside our country will affect humanitarianism inside our country. If the Iraqis, the Russians, the Chinese, the Indians, or others do not believe that the American ruler or any other ruler is fair, he cannot realize his people's humanitarianism or achieve the required justice for his people. Thus, humanity's role in international politics has become more totalitarian than it was before one of two decades ago.

Ramsey Clark: You were right to wish you had access to one fourth of the Western media resources. Indeed, I would say that had we had control of two percent of their media resources, a different picture would have emerged. This is because when the people are informed of the truth, false propaganda grows ineffective; Vietnam is a case in point. The Clinton administration is committed to the betterment of the American people's health. However, when the Americans realize that the health of Iraq's children does not count with the U.S. Administration, they will conclude that those who show no respect for human dignity outside the boundaries of their own country will hardly show respect for it within their own. If the Iraqi people's health fails to be respected, then the American people's health will not be respected either.

The U.S. Administration wants to keep the sanctions on the Iraqi people in place for the practical reason of controlling the region's oil resources and in order to keep its fleet in the Arabian Gulf to advance geostrategic objectives. Only public pressure will make the U.S. Administration shift its position. We will, therefore, use all available means to create a public opinion convinced that the U.S. policy must change because it is wrong.

In my book, I gave top priority to lifting the sanctions, and all its chapters set out to save the Iraqi people from the embargo and make the point that the United States has corrupted democracy and that there is no democracy in the United States but autocracy and the power of the money. The United States has even corrupted the United Nations by transforming it from a tool for making peace into one for making war.

His excellency the president: I am glad that you are in good health. I thank you for the book you presented to me through our UN ambassador. I looked at a summary and reviews of the book in our national press before its translation came out. I will now read the translated version.

Incidentally, I have read Schwarzkopf's book and the Briton De La Billiere's. To my surprise, I found that the people in high office in these nations are big liars. These people struck me as being less than sufficiently humane; while they stress the public relations value of not losing a single British or American soldier in action, they order the allied aircraft to use maximum firepower against the withdrawing Iraqi army. I also realized that it was not just the U.S. President that carried on a personal vendetta against Iraq and Saddam Husayn, but there were others like him.

I have read that there was much correspondence going on between Washington and Riyadh and between Washington and the operations headquarters in the Arabian Peninsula debating taking out Saddam Husayn's statue and the arch of triumph in Baghdad.

This war was an opportunity for me to gain an insight into the West, which otherwise I would still have remained ignorant about. The late comrade Michel 'Aflaq once told me some surprising things about the thinking of the people in the West. I must say that his observations did not shape my thinking in any big way. For instance, I used to think that personal grudges were the preserve of backward nations. It never occurred to me that there were those who nurtured personal grudges in advanced nations that claim the highest degree of progress.

When Khomeyni died, the minister of culture and information called to communicate the news to me, and he seemed rather gloating. I told him not to gloat over the death of anyone, since death belongs in the realm of the will of God; the creator who brought us to life will likewise take our lives. I asked him to convey the message to all information media on the say-so of the president. I directed that they treat Khomeyni as history and not to speak ill of him. If a political or military leader here were to order the demolition of the bronze- or plaster-made statue of a U.S. president, Iraqis and other Arabs would look askance at him, since a person with this sort of mentality is hardly worthy of holding high office.

What has happened in the West? It is the beginning of the flood and moral decay. I repeat that it never occurred to me that such men would rise to high office.

Those who want to go to war can, but for a ruler or leader to hold a personal grudge is something I never thought possible.

Ramsey Clark: I am not surprised by what you told me about George Bush. He was one of the more cruel of U.S. presidents. His role model and hero is Theodore Roosevelt, who was president during the Spanish-American War. He claimed that he led special forces, and this is not historically true. He took his son along to China for the sole purpose of hunting the vegetarian Panda bear as an expression of power. Roosevelt made the now famous remark that no victory made during peacetime can approximate a victory of a great war. In other words, if you have the choice of achieving your aim by war or by peace, you must opt for war.

President Bill Clinton, however, has been influenced by Jefferson who wrote the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and who made America a strong power without having caused the death of a single soldier. I, therefore, think that history will not spare George Bush. I sincerely hope that the United States will appear in a better picture and hope for good relations between our two countries. I also hope that peace will prevail and revisit your country when the sanctions are removed.

The president said: The problem is whether Clinton can resist the pressure on him by some people to take Bush's steps and whether his calculations of profit and loss are based on the idea that he should carry out an act of war, after being deluded that he will succeed where Bush failed, as there are people who are trying to make Clinton's past hostility to war appear as if it were a personal weakness, while that position was considered a sign of strength.

We, as well as all humanity, consider this side of Clinton's personality a sign of strength. Will the media and the pieces of advice given to him make him continue this position or will he deviate from it after he becomes president? Very briefly, will he try wisdom or weapons?

I told you when we met more than two years ago that if there is justice, people will use weapons against the oppressors to defend themselves. Weapons may achieve part of the people's humanitarianism when they are right and when they have no choice but to use weapons, as was the case with the Vietnamese who defended themselves and as was also the case with the Iraqis who used weapons when they were attacked in order to defend themselves and who remained steadfast until the situation became as it is. Thus, they preserved the vital part of their humanitarianism.

His excellency added: The United States does not need to use weapons to emphasize its humanitarianism. Any U.S. president, even if he comes from the street, can use weapons to destroy a large part of the world because the U.S. military power is fantastic. Will the U.S. President try to use force in the hope of succeeding where Bush failed, as some certain circles, particularly Zionist circles, are encouraging the use of force against Iraq or other countries, or will he try wisdom which Bush did not use?

I believe that the president of the largest country in the world in terms of destructive force needs to try wisdom instead of weapons. Is he ready to hear Iraq's viewpoint? The answer is a delicate one. It is we who unilaterally stopped the fighting after we were exposed to aggression in order to give him a chance of thinking in a nonbelligerent atmosphere, although we heard and read that he blessed the aggression, which was decided by Bush. We also said that he might have been forced to bless that step under special circumstances, and let us say that his decision came because he was not briefed on the facts as they were. For example, Clinton talked about the importance of Iraq's commitment to Security Council resolutions regarding the violations of our airspace by their planes and their imposition of no-fly zones, although these were not Security Council resolutions but purely American ones.

If he is ready, I believe that we simply may be able pave the way to build new relations based on mutual legitimate interests and mutual respect regardless of what happened previously. These relations may also be based on trust in the future, when the legitimate interests and features of these relations may become clear.

Ramsey Clark: Last January, Clinton said he used to support Bush's actions. He however, avoided turning Iraq into an issue during his election campaign because he knew he could defeat Bush by concentrating on the economy. He was unaware of the possibility of defeating Bush through war slogans. It emerged that he was right in choosing to concentrate on the economy. Bush could not use the Gulf war to win in the elections. I believe that Bush did what he could to drag Clinton into the position of a warrior before leaving office, not only against Iraq. He wanted to create a major disagreement with Iraq, including the assassination of your person.

The president: With the al-Rashid Hotel missile?

Ramsey Clark: Yes, he wanted to push Clinton into military conflicts in Yugoslavia and Somalia because Bush knew that if Clinton was preoccupied with military and not economic problems the American people would not elect him. Therefore, Clinton did not want a domestic war with Bush on Iraq. He wanted all responsibility to fall on Bush.

It was the United States that forced the United Nations to impose economic sanctions. If Clinton does not lift the embargo six months from now and if he lets the Iraqis die because of this embargo, he will be held responsible because this will happen during his presidential term.

Mr. Clark said: Mr. President, you are busy and I have taken up much of your time. I hope that next time we meet, the embargo will have been lifted. We will then be able to discuss other issues, foremost of which are the questions of Palestine, Somalia, and others. Thank you and thanks to Iraq. I am glad to see you in good health and find that Iraq and the Iraqis are fine.

The president: Thank you for your wishes for me and the Iraqi people. I wish you success and continued good health and activity in the service of humanity.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf attended the audience.

Meets With Justice Minister

JN1202173693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1647 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Minister of Justice Shabib Lazim al-Maliki today received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and chairman of the international committee for exposing the aggressive war crimes against Iraq.

The minister applauded the international committee seeking the prosecution of the U.S. Administration's ongoing war crimes for its efforts to lift the anti-Iraq embargo.

The two agreed to proceed with joint legal action along with nongovernmental international organizations advocating human rights and peoples' freedom to promote an end to the embargo and to expose anti-Iraq intrigues pursued under the guise of so-called international legitimacy.

Criticizes Blockade

JN1402182793 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 14, INA—Mr Ramsey Clark, former U.S. secretary of justice urged ambassadors of countries which waged the war against Iraq and drafted anti-Iraq resolutions to visit the country and see the tragedy caused by their actions.

In a statement published today by the Iraqi dailies AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-QADISIYAH, Mr Clark said the American people began to realize that war against Iraq was unjust and inhumane and that it had been launched for personal reasons having nothing to do with U.N. resolutions.

Mr Clark described former U.S. President Bush as a man who had lost his mind and a threat to U.S. interests.

Mr Clark was optimistic that the United States would turn over a new chapter in dealing with Iraq, stressing that relations under present circumstances would find the chance toward gradual improvement.

The U.S. former secretary said his feelings were encouraged by Iraq's serious stance to establish peace and solve differences through peaceful means. He stressed that justice and logic necessitated replacing hate and aggression by cooperation, friendship and peace.

Mr Clark called for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, describing it as unjustified and inhumane. He said Iraq's wise leadership had effectively weakened the blockade and limited its impact.

On his impressions during his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, Mr Clark said he found President Husayn optimistic, full of confidence and keen on establishing peace through dialogue.

Mr Clark described Iraq's reconstruction campaign as a proof of Iraq's capability to overcome crises.

Russian Envoy Discusses Trip, Denounces Blockade

JN1302092093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—A Russian official has said that Moscow cannot become a tool in the game of international pressure practiced against Iraq.

Igor Melekhov, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near East Department, has denounced the continuation of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH, Melekhov said Russia is strongly seeking to play its full political role in establishing security and stability in the world, particularly in the Middle East.

Regarding the reasons for his visit to Baghdad, Melekhov said the visit is an official Russian initiative related to what the Russian Foreign Ministry had announced regarding the position on Iraq. The visit, he said, also came to crown the political and diplomatic contacts between Baghdad and Moscow which have not ceased throughout the past period.

The Russian official denounced the policy of violence and repression practiced by Zionist occupation troops against the Palestinian people.

He denounced Israel's intransigence and noncompliance with UN Security Council Resolution 799, calling for the return of more than 400 Palestinians deported by Tel Aviv to southern Lebanon. He said Israel's noncompliance with the resolution represents disdain for the world community.

Opposition Group Denies Withdrawal From Congress

PM1502162193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Faction Denies Withdrawal From National Congress"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has denied last Saturday's [6 February] announcement of its withdrawal from the Unified Iraqi National Congress.

A statement issued by the assembly's information unit said that the report was untrue and resulted from ambiguity in the translation. What is true—according to the statement—is that "We are still continuing that path on the basis of the statement issued by the Islamic forces which suspended their participation in the Executive Council and did not take part in its sessions.

"It was not a question of withdrawal from the congress but, rather, of awaiting the solutions which they must find mainly with regard to the congress issue and the Iraqi opposition's unity."

Bomb Explosion Kills 10 in al-Sulaymaniyah

LD1502102693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Ten people were killed and seven injured as a result of a relatively strong bomb exploding in a depot in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Radio reports citing Kurdistan Democratic Party sources indicate that another bomb had been discovered and defused at the same location earlier.

Kurdish groups in opposition to the Iraqi regime regard elements of the Baghdad regime as responsible for this explosion.

Blast at Red Crescent Stores Kills 2

NC1302170693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Several time bombs exploded this morning inside stores belonging to the Iraqi Red Crescent Organization's branch in al-Sulaymaniyah.

The blast left two dead and five others injured. The appropriate authorities arrived on the scene and carried out searches and inspections. A few hours later, they found a sack in which a time bomb had been placed and set to explode 50 hours after the first blast. They also found a number of sacks filled with TNT. Our correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah said that the store contained supplies which the Red Crescent Organization's al-Sulaymaniyah branch had brought in from Baghdad via Khakurk on Thursday.

Poet Urges President Clinton To End Blockade

JN1502134993 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Feb 93 p 8

["AL-THAWRAH Diary" column by Shakar Hajim al-Salihi: "From an Iraqi Poet to Mr. Clinton"]

[Text] Mr. Bill Clinton, President of the United States. May peace be upon you:

I am poet Shakar Hajim al-Salihi from the Iraqi city of Babil, known for its ruins and cultural heritage and also for its glorious ancient history—the city on which your aircraft dropped tens of tonnes of bombs of death and destruction. I am writing to you at the start of your first presidential term, which coincides with the beginning of a new year. I hope that peace and prosperity will prevail throughout the world this year and that all human beings will have sufficient food, medicine, education, freedom, and a decent life, regardless of color, race, opinion, and religious belief.

Mr. Clinton: The American people elected you to succeed your Republican predecessor George Bush, who launched the ugliest war in our contemporary history against my country and people, inflicting much destruction on us, bringing us woes and pain, and resulting in thousands of victims. An overall blockade continues to be imposed on Iraq's children, women, and elderly people. Since your election on 3 November 1992, we the Iraqis have been looking forward to your new era to play a humane, civilized role and also to resort to the principles of justice, freedom, and law in order to take the initiative and save the lives of 18 million peaceful people who want to live in the manner they choose, in peace, security, and happiness. What your predecessor George Bush did against my people and country was not at all in line with the human rights slogans raised by your mighty country. Indeed, Bush's actions conflict with both the human and heavenly laws. Is it fair for your mighty country to cause the death and starvation of thousands of Iraqis who have been deprived of food and medicine? Mr. Clinton: I have 11 children, and some of them trembled in fear when your aircraft raided our peaceful homes in Babil. Your raids destroyed part of my house as well as other houses. Moreover, one of my children, born on 24 June 1990, lost his sight during the aggression you called "Desert Storm." We have thus far not found the right medicine that would restore sight to his little eyes, which look like those of your beautiful daughter. My youngest child was born on 17 May 1992. I named him Falah out of pride in my late friend, poet martyr Falah 'Askar, who was killed by the treacherous outlaws following your military aggression on my country. It terrifies me to see this child crying bitterly due to the insufficient milk ration allocated to him as a result of the embargo. Would President Clinton accept to see American children crying bitterly due to pain and starvation? I do not think so!!

It is no secret that I am extremely concerned over the future of my new children should the unjust blockade continue. If it does, then you will be guilty of premeditatedly killing people and wreaking havoc, which will fall within the framework of legal accountability and repentance. I do not think at all that you will accept to be, like your predecessor George Bush, an enemy of innocent childhood and peaceful humanity in such an ugly tragic manner.

Mr. Bill Clinton: I do not want here to defend my country's authorities because this matter concerns us as Iraqis. As we do not have the right to interfere in others' affairs and options, others should refrain from interfering in our own affairs. It is, however, fair to say that our current leadership, led by President leader Saddam Husayn, has spared no effort to reconstruct, in record time, what was destroyed by "Desert Storm." This leadership is extremely eager to provide a decent living for us, commensurate with the available capabilities. We believe that this leadership is still working in our interest despite the passage of three painful years since your blockade was imposed on us.

In conclusion, I hope that you will be true to your democratic principles and that you will sincerely and persistently work to lift the blockade imposed on our patient people, using your responsible presidential weight. I also hope that you will view your great country's relations with my country from the standpoint of peace, care, and mutual interest and that you will effectively prove the credibility of the slogans in which you believe—slogans that you have raised on several occasions, particularly at your presidential inauguration ceremony—vis-a-vis human rights and individual freedoms. I reiterate my hope and firm confidence that you will not be alongside the enemies of childhood and humanity and that you will resort to reason and conscience. In the days to come you will see that our people love life and will continue to believe in their right to a decent life, defending their legitimate options against the enemies of mankind, the killers of children, elderly, and innocent people. We pray to God to guide us to all that is good for mankind and is in the interest of a lasting, just peace away from wars, destruction, and the language of threats, starvation, disease, and deprivation.

[Signed] Shakar Hajim al-Salihi

[Dated] End of January 1993

Butrus-Ghali Reportedly Prevented Deportee Solution

TA1202191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today called on Israel to solve the deportees problem by April and thus pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that, after meeting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Musa said that the compromise deal by the United States and Israel is not sufficient and that Israel must return all the deportees to their homes as soon as possible. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports on additional developments in this affair:

[Begin Sadan recording] Almost two months after the deportations, different tunes are coming from the deportees' encampment in Marj al-Zuhur. They are no longer issuing ultimatums demanding that they all be returned unconditionally. Now they are saying: We can talk. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem this evening views al-Rantisi's new announcement as an attempt by the deportees to find a formula that would allow the immediate return of the 101 deportees Israel has allowed to return and the absorption of the rest in Lebanon until the affair is over. [end recording]

UN Secretary Butrus-Ghali has gone beyond his duty and taken steps to prevent a quick solution to the deportees' problem. Soon after the deportation, Butrus-Ghali influenced the Lebanese Government not to allow the deportees to leave their camp when the Lebanese were considering this option positively. This information has reached Israel recently. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that these facts led the prime minister to level harsh public criticism at the UN secretary general soon after the deportation. [passage omitted]

Deportee Issue Said Off Security Council Agenda

TA1302080293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The Palestinians have rejected the compromise reached at the Security Council regarding the deportees. The PLO's representative at the United Nations said that as far as the PLO was concerned, the Security Council president's announcement was meaningless. He said that the PLO would pursue its efforts to have sanctions imposed on Israel.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said in Washington that the compromise was unacceptable to the Palestinians. She claimed that it was the end result of a deal concocted between Israel and the United States.

The deportee crisis was resolved last night at the Security Council. President Ahmed Senoussi summoned Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Ya'aqobi, and told him that the Council members welcomed the decision to permit the return of 101 deportees. Senoussi asserted that Israel's decision constituted a step in the right direction. The Security Council urged Israel to follow up on this step and permit the return of all the deportees as soon as possible.

Security Council President Senoussi's announcement was endorsed by all Security Council members. Israeli Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi said that the Security Council president's declaration removed the deportee affair from the Council's agenda.

Security Council Gives 'Summation'

TA1302122093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by Aharon Lapidot from New York]

[Text] Yesterday, Israel emerged victorious from the battle surrounding the deportee affair at the Security Council. Yesterday evening, Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, president of the Security Council, summoned Gad Ya'aqobi, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, and read him a verbal summation of the affair that had been endorsed by all the Security Council members after an unexpectedly brief round of consultations.

The summation, which included five points, welcomed the decision made by the Israeli Government on 1 February to return all of the deportees by the end of 1993, and agreed that the Israeli position, as stipulated in the letter that was sent earlier to the Security Council president by Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi, conforms with Security Council Resolution 799. The Security Council urged Israel to continue implementing the resolution and to return all the deportees to their homes as soon as possible. The last clause in the agreement, which also conforms with the Israeli position, stipulates that the members of the Security Council are convinced of the necessity of continuing the peace process, and exhorts all the relevant parties to redouble their efforts to promote the negotiations. The removal of the deportee affair from the Security Council's agenda constituted a very important achievement for Israel, Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi told IDF radio last night.

[Begin Ya'aqobi recording] The issue has been removed from the Security Council's agenda, as demanded by Israel and by the United States. The decision was adopted unanimously, albeit during unofficial consultations, and Israel is not being demanded, asked, or forced to promise any additional steps. The positions presented in my letter, which was sent on behalf of the Israeli Government following consultations with the prime minister and the foreign minister on this matter, were accepted. This, in my view, is the major achievement and it constitutes a very significant accomplishment following a long and protracted battle. [end recording]

Ya'aqobi added that three factors helped Israel achieve this accomplishment: one, the agreement between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Secretary of State Warren Christopher; two, the Israeli Government's declaration that as far as it was concerned, the compromise agreement had closed the matter; and three, the goodwill shown by some of the members of the Security Council, including Security Council President Ahmed Senoussi.

Peres Welcomes UN Decision, Previews U.S. Talks

TA1402061493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will be arriving in Washington today on the heels of the UN Security Council decision to let go of the issue of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Peres believes that a real chance has now been created for the resumption of the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs, in spite of what he called the hesitation in the Palestinian camp.

Would it be worthwhile for Israel to make some kind of gesture toward the Palestinians to draw them back to the negotiating table? Perhaps to invite Faysal al-Husayni to join the Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] I do not think the problem now is one of gestures. We must get down to the problems themselves in a bid to find a solution. Gestures will be of no avail; what must be sought in earnest are solutions.

[Golan] So what do you think the Palestinians will do? Their initial reaction to the UN Security Council decision to drop the issue of the deportees was not so good. Nasir al-Qidwah, the PLO observer at the United Nations, said the decision was irrelevant. Hanan 'Ashrawi also reacted in the same vein.

[Peres] The problem is that the Palestinians and the Arabs had been pinning a great deal of hope on the UN Security Council. These hopes have been shattered, and they have nothing to wait for. The fact is that the United States firmly insisted on the accord made with it and asserted that no further concessions would be made. I would like to say that the president of the Security Council, the Moroccan ambassador, definitely played a positive role. I have grounds to believe that he did that at the instruction of the Moroccan king, who is also interested in the resumption of the peace process. The same applies to the UN secretary general. In fact, almost everybody joined in a common message to the Arab world and the Palestinians to the effect that the time has come to resume the peace process and that they cannot go on using the deportations as an excuse forever.

[Golan] Later this week you will be conferring in Washington with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, Vice President Al Gore, and other officials. What are your practical expectations from the talks in the U.S. capital?

[Peres] These will be first encounters for me. I think both the United States and Israel have new agendas which, in my opinion, not only do not contradict each other but can definitely converge in the same direction. If at one time we used to refer to ourselves as a strategic asset, I believe Israel can today be a first-rate political asset. I hope that in this first dialogue the foundations will be laid for such an understanding.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, I thank you very much.

Rabin Says UN Decision Vindicates Government Policy

TA1402115293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Security Council's decision to accept the U.S.-Israel compromise package deal on the deportees vindicates his government's policies. In an interview this morning with Jack Katzenell, Rabin also said he believed that the parties interested in peace, including the Palestinians, would come back to the conference table in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] When the end is good, everything is good; it proves that the policy that I, the Government of Israel, have adopted from the very beginning—the decision to remove temporarily the 400; second, to get the approval by our Supreme Court for this act; three, the compromise that I made with Secretary of State Warren Christopher—proved that we are capable together, the United States and Israel, to prevent any actions by the Security Council of the United Nations.

I believe that we have achieved, first, a blow to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic extremist terror group; second, we managed to prove what we did, what the government did, was legal from the Israeli point of view; three, we established the kind of cooperation with the United States, the new administration, that we reached an agreement without being subjected to the need to cooperate with the Arab representatives and created, I believe, a good beginning with the new administration.

[Katzenell] Will the Palestinians come to the next round of talks?

[Rabin] I believe that the parties that are interested in peace will come to the peace negotiations, and I believe that the Palestinians will do the same. [end recording]

Rabin Says 'Best Results' Achieved With U.S.

TA1402160493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] General satisfaction prevailed at the weekly cabinet meeting this morning. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin delivered a lengthy report on the deportee affair from the decision to deport to the High Court test and then down to the international test at the Security Council. Despite the need to compromise, we achieved the best results with the Americans, the prime minister said.

Today Rabin was full of praise for the Americans in every sense: They were the ones who persuaded the Security Council members to endorse the compromise, and they were the ones whose action brought about a full separation between the deportations and the political process, Rabin told the ministers. He concluded: In this affair, I do not think the American policy could have been any better for us.

Rabin also had a good word for Russia, Britain, Spain, and even President Mitterrand. His cabinet ministers joined the kudos, although the final message was aimed at the future. This is what Minister Yosi Sarid said after the cabinet meeting:

[Begin Sarid recording] The government will naturally have to decide how it intends to resume and accelerate the peace process and how it intends to imbue it with greater substance and significance. I do not think we should leave the entire acceleration job to the Americans, because it is a purely Israeli interest, after all. I am confident the government will do its duty. [end recording]

Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni urged the prime minister to take immediate action to renew the peace process. Aloni did not concur with Foreign Minister Peres' opinion that elections in the territories should be promoted even now, and neither did Prime Minister Rabin. We would not like to have elections held at this time, because they will greatly delay the peace talks, Rabin told Aloni, adding: I do not want to voice no confidence in the current Palestinian delegation.

Prime Minister Rabin was optimistic concerning U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to Israel. He hoped that the date of the resumption of the peace talks will be announced in the course of that visit.

A series of defense issues was raised at the cabinet meeting. Minister Amnon Rubinstein called on the defense establishment to issue an edict barring Israelis from entering certain Gaza Strip areas. The prime minister rejected the suggestion, saying that merchants would defy the order anyway.

Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, reported that the Army investigation of the Ze'elim training disaster [on 5 November 1992, in which five soldiers were killed] had been concluded and that the conclusions had been conveyed to the military judge advocate. Gen. Shahaq stressed the military investigative system's independence.

Also at the cabinet meeting, an announcement was made concerning the plan to abolish the Jordan bridges travel tax in the wake of an understanding with the Finance Ministry.

Prime Minister: Palestinians Will Return to Talks

TA1402082093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that all the elements interested in peace, including the Palestinians, will return to the negotiating table upon the resumption of the peace talks. He was replying to a question by our correspondent Jack Katzenell, at the end of the signing ceremony on a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with the PRC.

Mr. Rabin added that the removal of the question of the deportees from the UN Security Council's agenda shows that the government's policy on the issue had been correct. It has also been proven that Israel and the United States can prevent certain moves in the Security Council, he noted.

Rubinstein on Palestinian Attendance at Talks

TA1402170593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, cabinet secretary and head of the delegation to peace talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening to you.

[Rubinstein] Good evening.

[Friedman] The deportee affair is closed, at least as far as the Security Council, the United States, and Israel are concerned. Is the subsequent political event—the renewal of the peace process—definite as far as the Arab partners are concerned, or is Hanan 'Ashrawi's declaration that the Palestinians will not return to the negotiating table liable to reflect the general Arab stance?

[Rubinstein] Well, the picture is still unclear. What is clear is that we are very interested in returning to the negotiating table as soon as possible. What is very clear, I think, is that the Americans and the other cosponsor, Russia, would like that. What is clear is that a major effort to resume the talks will be made. And another thing that is clear is that to reach peace, we need negotiations, and we should not have to pay for the negotiations.

[Mardor] You mentioned a major effort. Did you mean that the Americans will pressure the delegations to return to the talks?

[Rubinstein] We feel that to date, the greatest difficulty has lain in the Palestinian sector, that there is greater openness and willingness among the relevant Arab countries. There is definitely a problem with regard to the Palestinians. In any event, we respect the delegation negotiating with us and we would like to resume discussions with it.

[Friedman] Egypt and Syria did not link the deportee affair to the continuation of the peace process. Do you believe talks can be resumed without the Palestinians now that these two, and possibly Lebanon, agree that the deportee crisis is over?

[Rubinstein] First of all, I would like to hope the talks will include the Palestinians. I think it is wrong to speculate whether we can start talks without them. If we act on the assumption that peace is not just a word; that all the involved parties wish to pursue the peace negotiations; that none of them is doing a favor to anyone; that just as we have a vested interest in them, so do the Syrians, the Lebanese, the Jordanians, and the Palestinians, we should return to the negotiating table. True, there was the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] affair, but that is on its way to a solution. There is difficulty; we understand the Palestinian party's difficulty, and we hope the solutions achieved so far—I am referring to our understanding with the Americans—and above all, their desire to return to the negotiating table so as to score achievements, will prompt them to return.

[Mardor] Mr. Rubinstein, will our understanding, as you termed it, with the Americans exact a price in the form of Israeli gestures when negotiations resume?

[Rubinstein] We hope they will return to the talks because negotiations are needed. We do not reject gestures in principle, and to wit, we made various gestures in the past. However, this is not a general approach the government pursues. The government believes that when the Palestinians come to the negotiating table, they will be able to achieve a lot.

[Friedman] You have made gestures toward Hamas; will you not make some for the Palestinians or the other parties in the negotiations?

[Rubinstein] Look, gestures do not constitute a process. The negotiating process is the main thing.

[Friedman] Mr. Rubinstein, do you have any idea when the 101 deportees will return to Israel?

[Rubinstein] No. They can return, and several things can happen. As for the UN debate, we hope it is behind is. We will stand by our commitment both to the Americans and to our Supreme Court to hear the appeals of all those who want to appeal and to allow all the 101 to return, if they so wish.

[Friedman] But you do not know when.

[Rubinstein] Also, as the government promised our court, a review [preceding word in English] of cases is being carried out.

[Friedman] Have you any idea what will happen to the other 300 deportees? Where will they go? Who will take them in?

[Rubinstein] I do not know yet. This issue requires the assistance of additional elements. The Arab world and others can lend a hand to their absorption, as has happened in the past. As you know, each if them has a different expulsion term amounting to half the term meted out initially.

[Friedman] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, thank you very much.

[Rubinstein] Good evening. I hope sincerely we will return to the negotiating table soon.

[Friedman] As do we.

Envoy to U.S. on Peace Talks, Clinton Presidency

TA1402072193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Professor Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Qital] Do you think the peace talks will resume?

[Rabinovich] That is how it looks now.

[Qital] So far, the Arabs have been quite furious in their reaction to what they term the capitulation to Israel, and it remains to be seen whether they will come to the negotiating table.

[Rabinovich] First of all, we are not talking about an overnight resumption of the talks; we still have to prepare for it. Ahead of us are the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to the region and his meetings with some key Arab leaders. The initial reactions will fade away, and when assessing them one must distinguish between in-depth and ceremonial reactions.

[Qital] How do you assess and what conclusions do you draw from the behavior of the Clinton administration and Secretary of State Warren Christopher in this affair?

[Rabinovich] The emerging picture is satisfactory. One must bear in mind that this is an initial impression at an early stage. However, from the way the affair was handled in the agreement of 1 February and what followed we got the impression that this administration adhered to the agreement it made with Israel. We felt that their position in the dialogue that accompanied the moves in the UN Security Council was: Let us give a chance to a solution of the issue, if you want to, but always bear in mind that we stand behind the agreement we made with you. We always felt that the United States was standing firmly behind the original agreement they made with us.

[Qital] What other issues are now on the agenda between us and the U.S. Administration, other than the question of the deportees, which is about to end, and the peace talks, which are about to resume?

[Rabinovich] We are talking about an administration that is actually making its first steps in the region; it has yet to consolidate a perception about the region, resolve how this perception and U.S. interests in the region fit in with the current general U.S. policy, decide on the balance between domestic and foreign affairs, the relative position the Middle East holds in the U.S. global perception, and the balance between matters of principle and ideology and concrete action. For example, if it is an administration seeking to stress democracy and human rights, it must decide how this squares with the need to negotiate with certain regimes in the Arab world.

[Qital] Prof. Rabinovich, have you already settled down in Washington?

[Rabinovich] It takes more than a few days to settle down, but I have begun working.

[Qital] Thank you very much and good luck.

[Rabinovich] Thank you.

Rabin Sets Date for U.S Visit Despite Problems

TA1602085093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 93 p 6

[Report by Amnon Barzilay, Aharon Barne'a, and London-based correspondent Dafna Vardi]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to travel to the United States on 10 March despite the fact that he has not as yet received an official invitation to a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The delay in the White House's official announcement of Rabin's visit has caused dissatisfaction at his bureau.

The absence of a date for the visit has interfered with the prime minister's planning of his March agenda.

In recent days, Rabin has expressed his belief that despite the Palestinians' statements, they will come to the peace talks because they have no other option. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Favors Compromise in Golan Heights

TA1602122993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin again said today that Israel is prepared for a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. Addressing Tel Aviv high school students, Rabin said that Labor's position regarding the territories is that the Palestinians should not be annexed because the Jewish nature of the State of Israel must be preserved. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal heard the prime minister:

[Begin Rabin recording] There is a concept of Greater Israel and of not an inch of the Golan Heights. There is another concept that says we are willing to compromise, including territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, in return for peace. This was and remains Labor's position.

As for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, my position and that of Labor, contrary to the Greater Israel stand, always has been that I want a Jewish state and not one in name only. Non-Jews also will live here as citizens with equal rights, but the vast majority will be Jewish. I do not want to annex 1.8 million Palestinians who live in the territories. At the same time, I in no way will return to the 1967 borders. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 16 February adds that "Rabin said he always would be ready to take calculated risks for peace and security. Israel could not attain peace at any price or under any conditions, but peace with security would diminish the dangers of war and terrorism."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 16 February carries a related report by Moti Gadish in which Rabin, asked why the political process is frozen and why he promised that an arrangement would be found within nine months, replies in a recorded passage: "I admit that we have encountered difficulties which certainly will not enable us to reach an agreement during the period I estimated initially. I believe that the truth must be said: I thought the matter to be simpler, and I admit that it appears that there are more difficulties than I expected."]

Peres Says Shevardnadze Provided MIA Information

TA1502060593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has recently received new information on the fate of missing Israeli navigator Ron Arad. Peres told reporters in Washington the information came from officials in several countries, among them Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who recently visited Iran. Peres would not reveal the nature of the information. He said Israel has also received some details about the other missing Israeli soldiers.

Peres repeated the government's position that Israel is willing to make territorial compromises in order to achieve peace. Peres said morally we do not want to dominate other people, and politically we do not want to create a Yugoslavia-like tragedy.

New Information Denied

TA1502192593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Knowledgeable political sources this evening told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that there is no new information from Iran regarding Ron Arad or other

Israeli MIA's. The remarks were made after Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed yesterday in New York that, following Israel's request, the issue has been recently discussed in Iran during a visit there by Georgian President Shevardnadze. Our correspondent was told that reporters understood Peres' remarks to mean that new information was relayed to Israel. It was now made clear, however, that no new information was provided.

Court Issues Ruling Against House Demolition

TA1502183393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Supreme Court justices have ruled that the house of a terrorist convicted of murder should not be totally demolished because other members of his family would be hurt. The test case judgment, handed by a three-man bench, referred specifically to the case of a terrorist from Janin convicted of killing an Israeli, Moti Biton, and wounding his wife three months ago. The judges said that if it was impossible to demolish only the part of the house in which the terrorist lived, the less extreme measure should be applied of sealing up his personal quarters.

Arabs Withdraw Agreement To Accept Bosnian Refugees

TA1402195093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Israeli Arabs follow-up committee, which includes representatives of local councils, Knesset members, and public figures, today surprisingly decided to freeze the decision to absorb 101 Muslim refugees from Bosnia. The committee members convened in Shefar'am today and said their decision was due to the fact that the operation had not been coordinated with the Bosnian Government. Our correspondent Gil Sadan, however, reports that since the decision was made public, the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have exerted pressure to annul it, claiming that Israel should not be permitted to make political gains at the same time as the Hamas deportations and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] actions in Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

Minister Yosi Sarid, who coordinated the operation for the government, expressed surprise at the committee's decision. Sarid said he does not want to get involved in the committee's reasons, but he deeply regrets it. He said he is prepared to get in touch with the Bosnian Government, and if he receives written permission from it, the refugees will be brought here.

Government sources told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that representatives of the Islamic Movement telephoned Bosnia in recent days to torpedo the cabinet decision. Labor Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen also believes the follow-up committee's decision is a capitulation to pressures from extremist circles in Israel and the territories.

IDF, SLA Shell 'Terrorist' Targets in Zone

TA1302165293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] This afternoon, a katyusha rocket hit an SLA [South Lebanese Army] post in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon, injuring nine men, two of whom suffered moderate wounds. The injured were taken to a hospital in Marj 'Uyun. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that mortar shells were fired at the security zone at the same time.

In response, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA artillery shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone for some two hours.

New Foreign Ministry Appointments Reported

TA1102160793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Feb 93 p 10

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nitza Rimon]

[Excerpts] Israel Broadcasting Authority Director Arye Meckel has been appointed as Israel's new consul general in Atlanta.

Meckel's appointment is only one in a series approved by the supreme committee for foreign service appointments, which convened yesterday under the chairmanship of Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

The new list includes two political appointments: Ruhama Hermon is the new consul general in Miami, and Nes Ziyyona Mayor Nisan Krupsky is the new ambassador in New Zealand. [passage omitted]

The following Foreign Ministry officials were reassigned: Shmu'el Moyal is the new ambassador to Fiji; Moshe Melamed—deputy chief of Israel's permanent delegation at the United Nations in New York; Dani Kyram—consul general in Boston; Yehudi Keynar—consul general in San Francisco; Ya'aqov Brakha—ambassador to Panama; and Shlomo Tal—ambassador to Costa Rica.

Representatives React to U.S.-Israeli Deportee Deal

JN1402172993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (PETRA)—The House of Representatives expressed its anger and denounced the deal concluded between the U.S. Administration and Israel on implementing Resolution 799 through the phased return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland, and the approval of this dangerous precedent by the Security Council.

In a statement issued today, the House of Representatives called on the Security Council to take a clear and frank position on the Palestinian deportees issue and to seriously and openly follow up the implementation of its resolutions.

The statement said: It is astonishing that the Security Council refrains from discussing the UN secretary general's report on Resolution 799 which he prepared at the request of the council itself.

The statement added that the United Nations is dodging its resolutions again, and is exposing the credibility of international legitimacy to a dangerous blow with the Security Council's statement that in effect prevents the implementation of Resolution 799, which was adopted unanimously in response to the dangerous meaning and blatant violation of human rights and the UN law itself, represented in the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland.

The statement said: We had the feeling that the hegemony on the Security Council and the international organizations, and on the interpretation and implementation of international legitimacy were directed against Arab causes and interests, but the recent behavior of the Security Council has gone beyond any logic. The deportation was accompanied by committing daily massacres against the Palestinian people. Instead of implementing the articles of the UN Charter on the Palestinian people who struggle for their freedom, and instead of taking the initiative by providing international protection to the Palestinian people, we see that the Security Council is evading the implementation of the fresh resolutions it unanimously adopted.

The statement added: The House of Representatives hails the deportees' faith, steadfastness, and devotion. God willing, the deportees' heroic stance will be a shining page in the long record of Palestinian struggle, and a demonstration of the nation's will to keep the injustice and humiliation away from the Arab body and to reject the paralyzed Arab situation, hoping for an Arab-Islamic position that will restore dignity and might to the nation, and credibility to international legitimacy.

UN Decision on Deportees 'Serious Precedent'

JN1402123893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "A Serious Precedent"]

[Text] The UN Security Council washed its hands of Resolution 799 when it announced, in the statement it issued the day before yesterday, that the Israeli-U.S. deal on the deportees is a step in the right direction. In fact, this deal is an evasion, an attempt not to comply with this resolution and is considered an alternative to it. In light of this, it is very strange for the Council to deceive the international community and to try to make it believe that Israel has taken a step in the right direction. It also seems strange for the Arab League secretrary general to make a statement accepting the the same step. It is noteworthy that some Western observers and correspondents in occupied Jerusalem issued reports to news agencies and radios, considering the Security Council's statement a defeat for the Palestinian deportees and a placation for Israel. The fact, however, is that this statement represents a defeat for the United Nations and its charter and confirms that the Council has turned into a tool for the U.S. State Department.

It is important to warn that the UN Security Council's disgraceful stand on Resolution 799 is a serious precedent which may be repeated through another similarly disgraceful stand adopted by the UN Security Council, with regard to Resolutions 242 and 338. Indeed, it is possible that Israel will strike a deal with the U.S. Administration on these two resolutions to empty them of their substance which is based on the inadmissibility of seizing the land of others by force. Moreover, it is also possible that the deal will replace a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict with a partial and incomplete solution that would maintain the Israeli aggressors' hegemony and tyranny. Then the Security Council would consider this negative outcome a step in the right direction.

Needless to say that what has been considered by the Security Council as a step in the right direction, with regard to Resolution 799, and what would also be considered a step in the same direction, with regard to Resolutions 242 and 338, fall within the outcome of the current Arab situation seen by all. If the Arabs do not take the intiative to build a new situation and march together toward a new Arab dawn, then all international resolutions will be useless in restoring their usurped rights and they will find the Security Council ready to wash its hands off its resolutions without hesitation.

Prime Minister, U.S. Senator Discuss Area Issues

JN1302175193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir conferred with visiting U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy on Jordanian-American relations in the Middle East. The prime minister and Mr. Leahy stressed that the United States should deal with the Middle East in a new vision that takes into consideration the various dimensions and the changes imposed on the region and the aspirations of its people.

The new American outlook, they stated, should be based on justice towards the achievement of further progress and prosperity for future generations. The prime minister and Mr. Leahy discussed in detail the issue of Palestinians expelled by Israel, with the American senator stating his interest to resolve the issue. He said he felt international criticism of Israel over the issue of the expellees. The prime minister said an immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 was the best way to solving this issue which is blocking the Middle East peace process.

Al-Sharif Zayd said that through the return of the expelled Palestinians, the peace process would gain its momentum in an atmosphere of confidence and seriousness towards the application of international legitimacy and achievement of a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

King Addresses Human Rights Center Committee

JN1402203093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Speech by Jordan's King Husayn to the members of the constituent committee of the Center for the Study of Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights in the Arab Homeland at the Royal Court in Amman on 14 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother members of the constituent committee of the Center for the Study of Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights in the Arab Homeland: Peace and blessing of God be upon you. I congratulate you on this good effort and the honor of taking the initiative to establish this center which we wanted to be a beacon to enlighten the accumulated darkness in these Arab surroundings, serving as a guide to the free men and those who believe in the dignity and rights of the Arab individual, and those who look forward to the renaissance of this glorious nation in order to take the place it deserves among nations. I thank the government, which responded to our call for establishing this center. Despite its immense responsibilities, this government endeavored to achieve this beginning whose mission we hope God will help you carry out on the Jordanian, Arab, and world levels.

As we envisage it, the mission of this center is to strengthen the Jordanian democratic experiment and release the latent potential of thinkers and creative persons in order to build a complete model for political, social, and cultural democracy, so that the concepts of future phases will be formed in this center from which a comprehensive Arab movement could emanate to resume the Arab awakening which was and still is the primary pillar of the Great Arab Revolt. Our fathers and forefathers had relied on this revolt and carried its banners at the start of this century when the nation faced a period of injustice, challenge, and denial. This revolt will remain as it has always been, a buttress on which we rest our spirit in these bleak years of the nation's life.

Therefore, it is necessary that the membership in this center remain open to all free Arabs because the honor of joining the Great Arab Revolt was open to every free and noble Arab working for the unity and greatness of this nation, and in order to make this center of ours a safe haven for all those who believe in human rights, freedom, and democracy all over the world, those whose flesh was lacerated and rotted in the dank prison cells but bore up and overcame pain to make the world more beautiful with freedom, justice, and human dignity.

Dear brothers: Defending people's freedom and cooperating with the concerned Arab and international organizations for this reason requires strengthening the nascent democracy in Arab regions that opt for this course, based on the fact that the role of this center is based on teaching freedom to the oppressed, exposing the ills of tyranny, and teaching ways of thinking in accordance with a free, rational, and contemporary method based on the nation's original heritage and its sublime mission in its best manifestations, and with a profound understanding of the contemporary world and the change it is witnessing. This change requires a study of the influential forces in this world in order to enlarge the area of freedom and progress. What is required is to establish an equilibrium among knowledge, power, and wealth during the formulation of this change.

In order to let the poets recite their poems freely in a secure environment that is unmarred by repression, in order that no one be monopolized upon, and so that the children can sleep calmly and peacefully, not frightened by terror, occupation or siege, we have to fight illiteracy, hunger, disease, fear, tyranny, usurpation, loss, and religious and denominational extremism, as well as any form of aggression against the human freedom, rights, and dignity.

Belief in the honor of lofty objectives and in man's noble mission can help to overcome the difficulties, illuminate the avenues, and open the wide horizons. While we are aware of the difficulties and challenges that we will face in our endeavor, our deep conviction in our sublime objective and our readiness to sacrifice for the sake of this nation make us sure that the right will triumph, and that what we seek will be realized after we have placed self-esteem in face of poverty, patience in face of injustice by the relatives, and knowledge in face of ignorance. Our march triumphed, and the national awareness and pan-Arab commitment remained as lighthouses at a time when those who were frightened collapsed, and those who were hesitant fled away. Jordan is still a light that guides those who are walking on the paths of freedom. Jordan has a unified spirit. It has a clear vision and glorious name and dignity. The pages of its books are full of the names of martyrs and creative men, the experiments of graceful patience, unselfishness, and confrontation of tyranny and slavery.

Let this center be a link to attach us with the time of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali and 'Abd-al-Raham al-Kawakibi, to assert the nation's human values through freedom, chivalry, writing, and vigilance, and to warn against the danger of tyranny, division, civil wars, looting of national resources, the absence of vision, narrow-mindedness, and immorality.

Let the lamps of freedom be lit with the light of our consciences, let it be strong in the books of our children and lessons of our universities, and be preserved by the arms of our soldiers. Let the dream of freedom and the human rights of the Arabs be the prelude for the forthcoming unity, or at the least sustain the dream of unity alive in the hearts until the nation emerges from the ordeal of its rebirth, the anxiety of its talented ones, and the democracy of its provinces to declare its freedom, unity, and its great human presence.

Let your loftiness, along with your brothers the freemen of the nation, toward the sources of freedom, reason, and dignity be a continuing process. Keep your studies and research the Arab dream of freedom, and the hope that the turn of the 21st century herald a resumption of the Great Arab Revolt, an interpretation of history in terms of freedom not oil, and the spirit of creativity be based on awareness not myth. Let it usher in an era where we plant for a thousand years not for one year, which quickly fades away. They will make this homeland full of glory and martyrdom as it was during the days of the Hashmites, generous and good like the faces of the Jordanians, bright likes the hearts of the real Arabs of our good and honest relatives.

So go ahead with God's blessings, and you will have our all-out support. May God help you and lead your steps on the good path. Peace be upon you, and God's mercy and blessings.

DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Chairman Arrives

JN1202200893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, hailed the achievements that Jordan has realized as a result of the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn despite the difficult circumstances Jordan is facing, foremost of which is its position on its longest border with Israel. He said this fact had not prevented Jordan from developing its economy and attaining stability, progress, and strength.

This came in a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY upon his arrival in Amman today, heading an official delegation on a week-long working visit at the invitation of Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives. His visit is part of a working tour in the region that includes Iran, Turkey, and Syria, in addition to Jordan.

Mr. Yang said the Korean leader Kim Il-song has asked him to convey his warm greetings to His Majesty King Husayn, and his wishes to Jordan—its king, government, and people—of continued progress and stability, and his hopes to entrench the bilateral relations of cooperation in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

The talks in Jordan by the chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly will deal with fostering bilateral and parliamentary relations and issues of joint interest.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN1402152693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office this morning Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly. Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dr. Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn, first speaker of the House, attended the meeting.

The two sides comprehensively reviewed bilateral relations, the areas of bilateral cooperation, and current regional and international affairs. The prime minister welcomed the Korean parliamentary delegation's visit to Jordan, stressing that the exchange of visits positively contributes to consolidating bilateral friendship and cooperation in the interests of the two friendly peoples. He indicated that the Arab and Korean peoples are living under similar circumstances. Both peoples, he said, are suffering from the division imposed on them. He stressed that the Arab people yearn for Arab unity and they are working hard to realize it. Had they been given the choice without any interference, they would have achieved such unity long ago. Likewise, the Korean people are working for Korean unity. He reviewed all dimensions of the Palestine question, stressing that we in Jordan will continue our efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question—a solution that guarantees all the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights to self-determination and repatriation. The prime minister said: We are seeking to solve problems through peaceful dialogue, but Israel is using force and getting support from the United States to continue its occupation of the Arab territories. He added that the Israeli occupation authorities are still dealing with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in an illegitimate and inhuman manner that clashes with all international norms and charters and human rights. He added that Israel is evading the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. He praised the DPRK's support for the just Arab causes and the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

On his part, the chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly praised Jordan's wise policies under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and Jordan's great accomplishments in the various fields. He expressed his satisfaction with the development of bilateral friendship and cooperation and voiced his country's absolute support for the Palestinian people's just rights. He said his country supports solving international disputes through dialogue and on the basis of justice.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir also met with the Korean chairman and his delegation this morning. The two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and the means of bolstering them in various fields within the framework of their mutual understanding and joint interest for the sake of bolstering their bilateral friendship. They stressed the need to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. The Korean side praised Jordan's unique experiment under His Majesty King Husayn in the social, political, and economic fields, which has become an example to be emulated.

Confers With Senate Speaker

JN1302204893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and a number of Senate members met with a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Korea [DPRK], headed by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly.

During the meeting, al-Lawzi said that Jordan sought and continues to seek a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East based on UN Security Council resolutions, the exchange of land for peace, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

He said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, sought to achieve peace in the Middle East out of its belief in protecting human rights in various parts of the world in order to achieve democracy which is the symbol of civilization.

The Senate speaker reviewed Jordan's accomplishments in terms of development and progress in various industrial and agricultural fields and its accomplishments in the democratic march and in the issue of human rights under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, who continues to work on building bridges of friendly relations with all peoples.

On his part, Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly and head of the delegation, expressed his appreciation for Jordan's wise policies under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He also expressed his appreciation for Jordan's accomplishments on all economic and agricultural fronts and the pioneering renaissance it is witnessing.

Additionally, House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat met with Yang Hyong-sop. At the begining of the meeting, Dr. 'Arabiyat welcomed the visitng delegation. He said: We take pride in the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn who created a special place for us in the world. He called for cementing bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentary field.

'Arabiyat said: We began a democratic march in Jordan during which we gave a lot until Jordan became a new phenomenon in the region on the intellectual level as well as the levels of freedom, construction, and principled political stands adopted by Jordan, which made it a beacon for pluralism, freedom, and true outlook for human rights in the region. He emphasized his pride in and appreciation for this good march.

For his part, Hyong-sop expressed his great appreciation for the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and for Jordan's constant and principled stands based on the policy of mutual respect among countries and on seeking to reunite the Arab ranks and find a just and honorable solution for the Palestinian problem.

Holds Talks With King Husayn

JN1502174493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] His majesty the king received speaker of the North Korean People's Higher Council [as heard], Mr. Yang Hyong-sop, and the accompanying delegation. His majesty underlined the need to bolster bilateral relations and continue efforts to serve causes of mutual interests. His majesty also asserted Jordan's commitment to principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

The Korean guest conveyed to his majesty the Korean president's appreciation of the king's wise policy and his endeavor to serve world peace. His majesty conferred upon the Korean guest the Istiqlal Medal of the First Order. His majesty also accepted the North Korean president's invitation to visit North Korea.

Chief Delegate Denies Seeking Separate Deal

PM1602124393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Feb 93 p 3

[Report on interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said that the Arab delegation's participation in the ninth round of peace negotiations depends on the outcome of the meeting to be held by the foreign ministers of the cordon states after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, which is expected to begin 17 February.

Al-Majali said that Jordan will adhere to what its Arab partners in the peace process agree. And that it will not go to the negotiations without the other Arab parties' approval.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he added that Jordan had not reached a final agreement with the Israelis and that what had been published about the agenda was untrue. He pointed out that his country will not sign any separate agreement with the Israelis before an agreement has been reached between the Israelis and the other Arab parties, especially the Palestinians.

On how to get out of the deportees dilemma he said that the only way is to return them to their homeland's territory by any means, whether by returning them in one group or gradually, but rapidly.

On Jordan's participation in the next round of negotiations he said: "We have not taken a position yet. But we are agreed that the decision on participation will be made by the foreign ministers of the cordon states in their next meeting," which he expects to be held in the last third of the month following the U.S. Secretary of state's tour of the region.

He expected the United States to send the invitations for the next round of negotiations before the end of the month at the latest, that is after coordinating with all the parties over this issue.

On his assessment of previous rounds of the peace process Dr. al-Majali said that the peace march is long, complicated, and difficult. "This is because we will be faced in the future with many obstacles which will be no less difficult than the deportees question. Israel has always accustomed us to these provocations before any round. If we deal with the issue emotionally, we will achieve nothing."

He added: "With regard to the Jordanian-Israeli track, I would like to point out that all the tracks are linked with the Palestinian-Israeli track. And we cannot achieve any progress on any track unless there is progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track."

On the situation on the Palestinian-Israeli track he said: "I believe that progress is faltering somewhat, and this is attributable to the Israeli position, which has from the outset not recognized the principal authority of the Palestinian negotiating delegation—the PLO."

On his view of the lifting of the Israeli ban on contacts with the PLO, he said that it is a positive step to leave the door to dialogue between the two sides open much wider. And recognizing the PLO openly would benefit the peace process greatly.

The head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations said: "As far as we are concerned, our strategy is based on moving in parallel with all the other tracks. And we will not reach any agreement with the Israelis without coordination with the other Arab parties. Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, it is merely a draft for discussions. It is an affirmation by the two sides regarding the authorities [marji'iyyat] to be referred to when going into the details."

Asked about the amendments to the agenda which the Jordanian side had demanded in the eighth round and his interpretation of them, he said: "I clearly mean that the agenda has fundamentals and a clear authority. For example, the authority with regard to the refugees issue is international law, which gives these people their rights. As for the territory issue, its authority is the UN resolutions, and so on. Besides, the amendments we demanded were merely a formal, linguistic matter to avoid misunderstanding on the part of some parties."

He denied that some Arab partners in the negotiations had criticized the agreement on the agenda. He said: That is untrue. The Syrian and Lebanese delegations expressed their satisfaction with what has been achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track. Incidentally, they were acquainted with everything before the dialogue with the Israelis began.

Asked whether the Jordanian side would be prepared to sign an agreement after discussing the agenda details, Dr. al-Majali said: "No, we will not sign any agreement until all the parties achieve solutions acceptable to them. We have succeeded in persuading the Israelis that the peace must be comprehensive, must include all the parties to the conflict, and must not exclude any parties. And the Israelis—after a lot of difficulty—agreed to this condition, that is, that the solution has to be comprehensive."

Al-'Aqabah-Bound Cruise Ships Not To Be Searched

JN1102071793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (Agencies)—Cruise liners bound for Jordan will no longer be searched under the U.N.-enforced Iraq blockade, but cargo ships will continue to be, officials said Wednesday.

The change is expected to boost tourism in Jordan's Port of al-'Aqabah, once Iraq's key international trade lifeline before the Gulf crisis.

Sufyan al-Muhaysin, director of the Jordan Shipping Association Agents (JSAA) told Reuters he had been informed officially of the change, which took effect February 1, in a letter.

"They sent us a memo saying that tourist ships heading to al-'Aqabah will not be inspected anymore," Mr. al-Muhaysin said.

Cruise ships en route to al-'Aqabah can sail past maritime inspectors in the Red Sea without being boarded if the trip is registered 60 days in advance of arrival at Jordan's southern port and winter sea resort, said Tawfiq Qa'war Chairman of the JSAA.

The vessels must also certify that only passengers are on board.

"There should be no hatches and no holes in the ship and it will be released immediately after the inspection team sees their documents," Mr. Qa'war said.

Ships carrying goods to be unloaded at al-'Aqabah remain under strict inspection.

Western warships patrol the Red Sea for contraband in possible violation of a U.N. embargo slapped on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

According to the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, which controls American naval forces in the Gulf region, about 16,000 ships have been intercepted.

According to Mr. al-Muhaysin, the latest ship intercepted was an unidentified Turkish freighter on Jan. 20, which was forced to dock and unload its cargo at the Suez Canal for further inspection. The ship was released on Feb. 7.

Since December, at least three ships have been intercepted, Mr. al-Muhaysin said.

"The alliance ships still adopt the same operations against cargo ships in the Red Sea coming to al-'Aqabah," he said.

But he added that he hoped the recent move to allow passenger liners through would encourage liners, scared off over the past two years because of strict inspection by the U.S.-led allies, to return to al-'Aqabah on regional cruises.

The first cruise ship to arrive at al-'Aqabah under the new rules is expected this month with some 2,000 tourists on board.

Officials say Jordan's economy has lost at least $30 million over the past two years in surcharges because of the inspection.

Al-Rantisi Holds News Conference on Israeli Acts

NC1202124993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, held a news conference today. He urged the UN Security Council to solve their problem as soon as possible and as it should be.

Dr. al-Rantisi answered reporters' questions and appealed to the sons of the Palestinian people, in particular, and the Muslims, in general, to contribute toward rebuilding Khan Yunus, which Israel destroyed. He said: History has never seen such practices, except by new Zionism, Israel.

Answering a question, al-Rantisi said Israel has started to condemn the deportation process and to consider it illegitimate. We, however, want Israel to announce this in public and to convey this to the UN Security Council with complete frankness. We also want Israel to pledge to the international community that it will not carry out another deportation operation. Only then will we adopt a positive stand on this step, al-Rantisi added.

To another question on a statement by Butrus-Ghali, Dr. al-Rantisi said that Butrus-Ghali has said it is no longer his decision, but the Security Council's. He said the Security Council must adopt adequate measures to force Israel to submit to international law and implement Resolution 799.

Al-Rantisi described the European stance as honorable. He said: We ask the United States to follow Europe's line to safeguard its credibility.

Al-Rantisi said Israel has started to back down, but this is not enough.

To another question, al-Rantisi said: I am confident the Arab nation will not accept its dignity being encroached upon by the Zionists and that it will defend the decision to implement Resolution 799, which provides for our immediate and safe return. This is evident in the statements of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who called for the return of the deportees before the start of the negotiations, al-Rantisi said.

He added: I believe that Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' admission of Resolution 799 is an acknowledgment of the condemnation of the deportation decision. In light of this new Israeli step, I call on the Security Council to convene and adopt sanctions against Israel.

To a question on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's position, Dr. al-Rantisi said: Indeed, 'Arafat's statements are in line with the deportees' course, but I am very surprised at statements by [PLO officials] Nabil Sha'th and Bassam Abu-Sharif.

Deportees Reject Security Council Announcement

NC1302095793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, today rejected the UN Security Council's announcement concerning the issue of deportees. He said the announcement is an attempt to circumvent Resolution 799. Our correspondent in Marj al-Zuhur has sent us this report:

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, information spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, held a news conference this morning. He declared that the deportees reject the UN Security Council's announcement concerning the deportees issue. Al-Rantisi said: We categorically reject this announcement because it circumvents the Security Council resolution and the UN secretary general's recommendation calling for a Security Council meeting to adopt all the necessary measures to implement Resolution 799.

Al-Rantisi added: Our stand is firm: full implementation of Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate safe return of all the deportees. The announcement has already obstructed the implementation of Resolution 799 for two months, al-Rantisi added. [sentence as heard]

During the news conference, Dr. al-Rantisi said: We affirm that the Security Council's announcement reiterates the double standard of the Security Council, which has rejected any compromise solutions regarding the implementation of its resolutions on other international problems.

Continuing, al-Rantisi said that the Arab League and PLO stands rejecting this announcement are in line with the stand of the deportees.

Dr. al-Rantisi said that the deportees will organize a funeral in proxy, including a burial ceremony of the Security Council, at noon today to protest this announcement.

Asked to comment on Israeli radio's report that he supports the compromise solutions to the deportees' issue, Dr. al-Rantisi said: Israeli radio reports are full of lies and our people do not believe in Israeli radio and television. I thank Jordanian television, which is received in the occupied territories, for having refuted the Israeli reports.

[Paris AFP in English at 0849 GMT on 13 February transmits a report on reaction to the Security Council decision, which adds the following: "Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami, a spokesman for the Islamic Jihad, said the Security Council undermined its credibility by supporting Israel's offer to take back only 101 deportees and urging it to repatriate the rest 'as soon as possible.'

["The Council, which issued the non-binding statement in New York Friday [12 February] in a bid to spur a resumption of stalled Middle East peace talks, was 'behaving like a tool of Israeli policy,' Shami said.

["Shami said: 'The Security Council is not afraid to contradict itself by calling for the implementation of (its) Resolution 799, which demands our immediate return, and by saying at the same time that the Israeli proposal of a partial and delayed return is a step in the right direction.

["'We accept only our collective return and ask the Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims to scupper this attempt to empty Resolution 799 of its contents,' Shami added."]

Deportees Stage Mock Funeral

NC1302123493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] At noon today the 400 Palestinian deportees held a funeral for the UN Security Council's credibility with regard to the implementation of Resolution 799. The procession was led by deportee spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk, and Shaykh Hamid al-Bitawi. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said: We announce the death of the UN Security Council's credibility and we will not set a date for accepting condolences. We will bury it in the cemetery and we will consider it the first death in the deportees camp. We will not implore God to have mercy upon it because it did not show any mercy upon the oppressed and downtrodden people.

Deportees Support Arab Meeting

NC1402133693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, held a news conference today. He said that Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz's request for convening an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers is positive. This meeting will give impetus to Arab dignity, which should maintain its position toward the Israeli arrogance and intransigence that are fully supported by the United States, Dr. al-Rantisi said.

[Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 14 February carries a report on the deportees issue which adds the following: "The deportees have reiterated their rejection of a partial solutions to their problem. Deportees spokesman Dr. 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-Rantisi today called for an Arab meeting to be held at the foreign ministers level to discuss the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy."]

Buwayz Meets U.S. Envoy, Views Christopher Visit

NC1202134293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Dispatch by Khalil Fulayhan at the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visit Lebanon as part of the tour he will start in Egypt next week? This was the topic of discussion between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker during their one-hour-and-15-minute meeting. Ambassador Crocker apologized to reporters for not being able to answer any questions on the talks, trying to avoid any question on Christopher's trip. He said discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations, adding: We also discussed the Middle East peace process at length, the deportees, and bilateral talks in Washington.

Minister Buwayz also avoided confirming whether Christopher will visit Lebanon, saying that discussions with the U.S. ambassador focused on the need to implement Security Council Resolution 799. On whether Christopher will be coming to Lebanon, let us listen to the following interview with Minister Buwayz.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Correspondent] Did Ambassador Crocker inform you that you will be meeting Secretary Christopher in al-Biqa' Valley or in Beirut?

[Buwayz] Ambassador Crocker did not inform me of anything about this visit. The United States has to listen to Lebanon's stand regarding current regional issues. If Secretary Christopher visits, we welcome him; if he does not, we understand.

[Correspondent] Has the probability of such a visit increased after your talks with the ambassador?

[Buwayz] We did not receive any new information on the subject. I believe the objectives of this visit are still vague.

[Correspondent] If Secretary Christopher cannot....

[Buwayz, interrupting] I said very clearly that if....

[Correspondent, interrupting] What will Lebanon's stand be?

[Buwayz] I said very clearly: If he visits Lebanon we welcome him. If he does not, we understand. Thank you. [end recording]

Seeks Explanation of U.S. Position

NC1202184093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced that Lebanon's participation or non-participation in the coming round of peace talks will depend on the U.S. commitments to this process and on a unified Arab stand. Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, Buwayz said: If Christopher visits us, we welcome him. If he doesn't, we excuse him. Buwayz was speaking after receiving U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Ryan Crocker. Buwayz denied that the U.S. ambassador conveyed a message to him from his U.S. counterpart Christopher.

[Begin Buwayz recording] We discussed with the U.S. ambassador the subject of implementing Security Council Resolution 799 and the need to implement it in full. We also informed the ambassador that Lebanon needs to know the attitude or spirit of the new U.S. Administration regarding any plan to resume the talks. I affirmed to him that we need to know the U.S. Administration's views regarding the peace conference and its view on the role it will play, especially regarding the contents of the letters of assurances and the bases of the peace conference. Before discussing the process of resuming or not resuming the peace talks, we need to find out in a more detailed and accurate manner the U.S. stand regarding the role it will play—whether it will be an effective role or merely its usual role. [end recording]

Christopher Visit to Beirut Called 'Likely'

NC1302083393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by Tony Nassar]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker avoided a public discussion of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon as part of his Middle East tour. But according to informed sources, this is motivated purely by security considerations and it does not mean arrangements for the visit are not being carefully studied by Beirut and Washington through secret diplomatic channels.

The sources cite four reason why the visit is likely to take place: First, in its relations with the legitimate Lebanese Government, President Clinton's administration cannot retreat from what President Bush's administration had achieved at the level of bilateral ties. Since former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Hawsh al-Umara' last summer, Christopher cannot justify his failure to visit Lebanon, especially since the security situation in the country today is better than last summer.

Second, Lebanon is involved in the bilateral talks with Israel and Christopher's tour of the region will specifically take him to the countries concerned with the talks. He cannot, therefore, visit those countries and exclude Lebanon, as this would unjustifiably create a gap.

Third, Lebanon is the country most concerned about the deportees, Resolution 799 and ways of its implementation, and the American-Israeli agreement in this respect. The problem of the deportees constitutes one of the most important aspects of Christopher's Middle East tour. Therefore, the U.S. secretary cannot ignore officials in Beirut when he discusses this issue.

Fourth, Lebanon is the Arab country with the greatest fears and obsession regarding the peace process and the way the United States and the world are handling it. Therefore, Christopher needs to give Lebanese officials American guarantees and reassurances to dispel these fears and this obsession and enable Lebanon to return to the negotiating table with greater confidence.

The sources conclude that there is nothing to indicate the U.S. secretary will not visit Lebanon, unless Christopher's administration [as heard] is not willing to make the visit for reasons that concern it alone and are still unknown to the Lebanese.

Buwayz Warns of Consequences if No Visit

NC1402074093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] In an interview with the newspaper AL-ANWAR, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher does not visit Lebanon within his Middle East tour it will create many difficulties. Omitting Lebanon from the tour, Buwayz added, would conflict with the declared commitment of the U.S. Administration to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

Buwayz Says Resuming Talks Depends on U.S.

NC1402075893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Commenting on the UN Security Council statement considering Israel's decision to return 100 Palestinian deportees a step in the right direction, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has warned against the consequences of any decision misinterpreting the UN resolutions. In a statement to AFP, Buwayz said Israel's failure to implement Resolution 799 would open the road for other states to undermine the UN's credibility. He added that whether or not the bilateral talks with Israel are resumed must not only be linked to the Palestinian deportees issue. He said if we accept the principle that not implementing Resolution 799 might compel us to leave the negotiating table it means we have fallen into the trap set by Israel, which can create other conditions to wreck the peace talks.

Buwayz added that whether or not the peace talks are resumed depends on the new U.S. Administration's willingness to continue its role as a driving force behind the peace process, and consequently to pressure Israel into implementing the UN resolutions.

Buwayz said that he does not support holding an Arab meeting to coordinate stands before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East on 17 February. He reiterated that he refuses to meet with Christopher outside Lebanon. He expressed the hope, however, that Christopher will visit Lebanon, because if he does not it will contradict U.S. assurances of supporting Lebanon's sovereignty.

Arabs To Ask U.S. To Reaffirm 'Assurances'

NC1502174493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that a Lebanese-Syrian summit will be held in the next few days to discuss the latest regional and international developments and the situation in Lebanon. He ruled out a meeting among the cordon states this week.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, Buwayz disclosed that the Arab parties will not request new assurances from the United States. They will call on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to reaffirm the assurances that Washington pledged to abide by during former President George Bush's term.

Buwayz stressed the need for the U.S. sponsor to intercede in the negotiations to propel them, noting that Lebanon to date has not received any details on whether Christopher will visit Lebanon. He expressed his belief that any meeting with Christopher outside Lebanon is not desired and would not really serve the Lebanese Government's bid to consolidate national sovereignty.

Buwayz stressed the need to fully implement Security Council Resolution 799. He rejected any attempt to implement this clear-cut resolution in stages.

Buwayz denied any knowledge of a tour by Prime Minister al-Hariri of certain Arab countries in the near future.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Position 16 Feb

NC1602065693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0618 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] We have just received the following report:

The Martyr Raghib Harb Group of the Islamic Resistance attacked the Zionist position at Bra'shit at 0115 today with rockets and machine guns. The fortifications and an armored personnel carrier were destroyed. The Zionist enemy returned tank and mortar fire on Bra'shit and 'Ayta al-Jabal.

Resistance Threatens Retaliation

NC1602081693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Israel escalated its attacks against liberated villages near the border strip last night. The border militia has issued a warning that they will destroy Majdal Silm if its people continue to assist the resistance fighters. The resistance responded to the warning, saying any attacks against Majdal Silm or other villages will be met with strong retaliation against the Jewish settlers and mercenaries in northern Palestine.

Israeli artillery shelled the areas of Yatar, Haris, Zibqin, and Wadi al-Nafkhah last night. Israeli forces also fired flares over the targeted areas. An officer of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon said that about 25 artillery shells were fired. Local sources reported that Israeli helicopters raked the outskirts of Zibqin, Majdal Zun, Shihin, and Tayr Harfa.

Caution prevailed in the villages near the occupied border strip after last night's attacks on Kafra, Kafr Rumman, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Mlita hills, and al-Luwazah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, as well as Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

Islamic Resistance Statement on SLA Warning

NC1602083193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] In response to the threats by agent Antoine Lahd, commander of the so-called South Lebanese Army, to shell and destroy our villages in Majdal Silm and Jabal 'Amil, the Islamic resistance has issued the following statement: [passage omitted]

We warn the Zionists and their coward agent Antoine Lahd that any attacks on our steadfast Majdal Silm, or any other villages, or attempts to displace our kinfolk will be met with severe retaliations against the mercenary Jewish settlers in all the settlements in northern Palestine.

Radio Lists 'Activists' To Be Avoided

NC1602091793 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Security sources have advised the residents of Majdal Zun, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Majdal Silm to keep away from the houses of Hizballah activists. The residents have been told that the security authorities in the border area know the names and addresses of the Hizballah activists, and that they will be the targets of military operations. The names of these activists are: In Majdal Silm, 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim Yasin, Nabil Qawuq, Mahdi Munif, Jawad Yasin, 'Ali Khayr-al-Din, Musa Khayr-al- Din, 'Ali Abu-Tu'um, Muhammad Jamil, and 'Abd 'Ali Milhim; in Majdal Zun, Radwan Rashid Sa'id, Khalil Ibrahim Sa'id, 'Ali Jundi al-Dur, and Hasan Rawda, alias al-Jinji; and in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, 'Ali 'Ullayq, Hasan Turkiyah, Muhammad Husayn Murtada, 'Ali Hasan 'Izz-al-Din, and 'Abudi Mir'i.

The security sources said that the residents of these villages will be to blame if they do not heed this advice.

Israeli Forces Shell Villages in South

NC1602094993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] At dawn today, the Israeli occupation forces shelled Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, and Shaqra in the central sector. The shelling was accompanied by bursts of machine-gun fire from Israeli positions on the hills of Bra'shit. The shelling continued until 0500 today.

An Israeli helicopter also used machine guns to rake the valleys adjacent to these villages, damaging the crops.

Afghanistan

Several Killed, Many Injured in Missile Attacks

LD1202171593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The opportunist faction of the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat], along with Golboddin Hekmatyar's rebellious branch, fired missiles today on residential areas of Kabul city.

An authoritative source told a BAKHTAR correspondent that today a total 100 missiles were fired on Kabul city, as a result of which five innocent compatriots were martyred and another 60 people were injured. The missiles were fired from the south and west of the city and landed on the second, fourth, fifth, and tenth wards of the city, which in addition to loss of life caused considerable financial damage.

The city hospitals report that most of the injured were released after minor treatment.

Attacks Continue Despite Talks With 'Other Side'

LD1202173593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan confirmed that General Hamid Gul and Mr. Ihjaz ul-Haq who went yesterday to meet the other side have not returned yet.

However, sources in the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said that today the forces of Golboddin's rebellious branch fired missiles and heavy weapons on Kabul city. The forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan likewise fired heavy weapons at the missile positions of Golboddin's rebellious group.

Aircraft Downed; Hekmatyar Takes 300 Captive

LD1202180393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Following the clashes which took place between the warring sides in Afghanistan during the past two days, six helicopters and aircraft have been downed in the Khojah Rawash region.

At the same time, Hekmatyar party sources announced that the Maktab Soltan region, Zanburak Mountain, and the Band Qazi region have been cleared of opposing forces. The same sources also announced that Hekmatyar forces are currently stationed in the Kuh Shir Darwaze region.

The reports which we have received also indicate that following the clashes, huge amounts of heavy weapons, including 26 Katyusha missile launchers and a number of small arms, have been taken by the Hekmatyar party, and that more than 300 have been taken captive by his forces.

Tehran Reports More Fighting in Kabul

LD1302123593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The western area of the Afghan capital Kabul was the scene of fighting between forces of Sayyaf's Islamic Union of Afghanistan [Ettehad-e Eslami] and [Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's] Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] against forces of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye] throughout last night.

A report from this station's correspondent in Kabul indicates: Despite diplomatic moves by representatives of the warring sides to establish a cease-fire, the noise of heavy and light firing could be heard continuously until dawn today, especially in the Silo region. Our correspondent continued: Yesterday's clashes left many dead and injured. A large number residential homes were destroyed.

According to Islamic Unity Party sources, this battle, which started on the morning of Thursday [11 February], is continuing in the Afshar, Khoshan Khan Mena, and Leva-e 72 regions. According to these sources, the Social Sciences University and the central Silo region remain under the control of the Islamic Unity Party.

Meanwhile, in the southern and southwestern districts of Kabul, Islamic Unity Party and [Golboddin Hekmatyar's] Islamic Party forces are continuing their intense fighting against Shura-e Nezar forces.

The same sources announced that they have managed to capture Shura-e Nezar positions in the Shir Darvaneh and Tup Chasht hills.

Hezb-e Eslami Claims Destruction of Napalm Bomb Depot

LD1402221793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami has claimed that it has blown up the napalm bomb depot at Bagram airbase, north of Kabul city.

According to the Central News Unit reporting from Islamabad, the Hezb-e Eslami issued a communique Sunday evening announcing that the explosion destroyed approximately 1,000 napalm bombs. The explosion occurred at about 2200, and it was heard up to 10 miles away from the site.

Iranian Embassy in Kabul Brokers Semi-Official Cease-Fire

LD1402172893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] After several days of intensive fighting between forces of the Supervisory Council [Shura Nezar] and Sayyaf's Ittehad against the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, a semi-official cease-fire was established between the warring sides in Kabul yesterday evening, thanks to the efforts of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul.

According to a report dispatched by our Kabul correspondent, the Afghan Defense Ministry has announced: Indirect talks are in progress to establish a full cease-fire between the warring parties. The Government of Afghanistan supports the presence of neutral forces between the belligerent forces as a buffer. Talks are continuing about this. The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami has also confirmed the establishment of a semi-official cease-fire in Kabul.

Our Kabul correspondent says the people have come out of their houses and shelters so as to obtain basic essentials. The people are using timber materials or cutting down the trees in the city streets for fuel. Many buildings have been destroyed and window panes of other buildings have been shattered. Water, electricity, telephones, and other public services in Kabul are cut off.

Cease-Fire Reported Holding

BK1402134893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Kabul, Feb 14 (AFP)—A fragile cease-fire seemed to be holding Sunday after 27 days of fierce fighting that has caused thousands of deaths and casualties in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Government forces concluded overnight Saturday a cease-fire with the Shiite pro-Iranian Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, after having taken several of their positions in the west of the capital, according to a government spokesman.

Artillery also fell silent on the southern front where the Defence Ministry forces of Ahmed Shah Masud are fighting the Hezb-i- Islami forces of dissident mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The two sides agreed to abide by the cease-fire for the duration of a peace mission launched last week by the former Pakistani secret services chief Hamid Gul, one of the main architects of the mojahedin victory over the occupation forces of the former Soviet Union.

A spokesman for President Borhanoddin Rabbani stressed the cease- fire had not been officially agreed, but the explosions of rockets and the incessant din of artillery almost entirely ceased on Sunday, persuading citizens to emerge onto the streets and stock up on provisions.

The fighting, which has continued unabated since January 19, claimed between 3,000 and 5,000 lives according to the latest estimates, with a further 5,600 people admitted to the city's five functioning hospitals.

In the last three days government troops have seized several positions held by Wahdat, claiming they have liberated from their shiite rivals the Russian Embassy and a grain silo in the west of the capital, which holds most of the city's flour reserves.

However firing continued Saturday on the main road leading to the silo, and rockets fell on Massud's ragged troops sheltering in ruined houses nearby.

The government troops, forced to fight on two fronts, have lost ground to the Hezb forces, who gained a few hundred metres (yards) in the city's south before the temporary cease-fire.

According to diplomatic sources Hezb-i-Islami, which previously demanded the resignation of Rabbani as a condition for a lasting cease-fire, have now adopted a compromise position permitting him to stay in office for one year as interim president until general elections are held.

"The factions are beginning to realise they have reached a military impasse," one diplomat said.

Government Troops Respect Cease-Fire

LD1502164093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Today—the fourth anniversary of the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops from Afghanistan—the Islamic State of Afghanistan halted mopping-up operations that began at midnight.

An authoritative source in the Defense Ministry informed a BIA military correspondent that the opposing side, by ignoring the calls made by the international community and those personalities who are now in Kabul for talks and negotiations, and contrary to a statement on the cease-fire issued by their spokesman, embarked on attacks from the east and south.

However, the forces of the Islamic State observed the cease-fire, based on the statement issued by the Islamic State, and did not return fire.

Rabbani Supports Negotiations With Warring Factions

LD1502122593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] According to the Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, in an interview broadcast on Kabul radio yesterday, Borhaneddin Rabbani, head of the Afghan Government, announced that his government's strategy is to resolve issues through political negotiations. He expressed the hope that the opposition groups will also assist in resolving the issues through negotiations. The head of the Afghan Government also stressed that he will welcome any efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. He hopes that such efforts will yield optimum results.

Mr. Rabbani stressed the need to implement the government proposal regarding the collection of heavy weapons.

India

Nuclear Pact With PRC 'Categorically' Denied

BK1502161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] India today categorically denied a newspaper report that it will have a pact with China in nuclear field. Responding to a question by newsmen in New Delhi today, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the report is baseless and speculative. He said that there is no discussion with China at any level about the matter.

Troops To Go to Multinational Force in Somalia

BK1402091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The United Nations is finalizing a plan to replace the U.S. troops in Somalia with a multinational force. According to a UN official, the force will include a sizeable contingent from India. The official said the UN secretary general's plan will be handed over to the Security Council when Dr. Butrus-Ghali returns from Japan. Indian diplomats in Washington have also said that New Delhi is considering to send about 4,000 Naval and Army personnel to the multinational force in Somalia.

Tajik Prime Minister Arrives for Official Visit

BK1402160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister of Tajikistan, Mr. Abdullodzhanov, arrived in New Delhi this evening for a four-day official visit to India. He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] tomorrow morning. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Abdullodzhanov will have talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and will call on the president and the vice president. A number of agreements including one on trade and economic cooperation are to be signed between the two countries. The two sides will sign a declaration on principles of cooperation and agreements in the fields of culture, technical cooperation, banking exchanges, and information. Before returning, Mr. Abdullodzhanov will also visit Agra and Bombay.

Commentary Welcomes Visit

BK1502034393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ashnarayan Roy of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The four-day official visit to India by the Tajikistan prime minister, Mr. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, is intended to upgrade bilateral, economic, and political relations and also to give an impetus to India's ties with the Central Asian republics. Mr. Abdullodzhanov's visit has come at a time when India is seeking to build new bridges of understanding with the Commonwealth of Independent States and reorient its foreign policy toward these countries.

For their part, the Central Asian republics have also recognized the importance and potential of India and the imperative need to reevaluate and upgrade their ties. This has also been reflected in the fact that in the last two years heads of state from several states of the region have paid oficial visits to India.

Considerable importance has been attached to Mr. Abdulladzhanov's visit as geographically among all the Central Asian republics, Tajikistan is closest to India. The Tajik Government, which is combatting Muslim fundamentalism, has gained an upper hand over the Islamic opposiiton. The consolidation of the Abdulodzhanov regime in Tajikistan can influence developments in Afghanistan to New Delhi's advantage. Now that Tajikistan is engaged in restructuring its economy, the visiting prime minister and other high officials can have a closer view of India's economic liberalization program. Obviously, the two countries can gain a lot from each other's experience. The two sides have already identified certain areas for meaningful cooperation. These include establishment of cotton spinning mills, leather tanneries, rural telephone exchanges, and diplomacy. Six agreements, including trade, economic and cultural cooperation, protocols on information and banking exchanges, and an agreement on technical cooperation are expected to be signed during Mr. Abdullodzhanov's visit. These agreements will give a boost to bilateral cooperation.

India can help Tajikistan and other Central Asian republics to create an administrative infrastructure and explore economic opportunities, including the setting up of joint ventures. Mr. Abdullodzhanov's visit will pave the way for closer and more meaningful partnership between the two countries. India-Tajikistan could become a pace-setter for similar cooperation with other Central Asian republics.

Rao Confers With Abdullodzhanov

BK1502092293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] India and Tajikistan today signed five agreements and a protocol to boost bilateral ties in economic, trade, commerce, banking, and culture, as also sports. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the Tajikistan prime minister, Mr. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, met without aides in New Delhi for some time followed by official-level discussions. Later, the two leaders signed an agreement setting out the principles and directives for conducting bilateral relations. India has signed similar agreements with four other Central Asian republics after they became independent following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Tajikistan prime minister was given a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning. Talking to our correspondent, he expressed keen desire to establish direct and closer links between India and his country. He said he has a package of proposals and hoped that India will respond positively. Tajikistan is a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization comprising, among others, Pakistan and Iran.

$5 Million Credit, Medicines To Be Given

BK1502151493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] India today signed six agreements and offered $5 million credit to Tajikistan to boost bilateral economic cooperation. New Delhi will also dispatch 8.5 tons of medicines to help the Central Asian republic to overcome its present difficulties. The agreements include a declaration on principles and directions of cooperation between the two countries. The other agreements and a protocol cover cooperation in economic, technical, banking, and other activities, including culture, arts, and education. The agreements were signed following talks between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Tajikistan prime minister, Mr. Abdullodzhanov, in New Delhi. Mr. Rao also expressed India's willingness to provide experts and train Tajikistan personnel in India.

Thanking for the assistance, Mr. Abdullodzhanov said his country is interested to cooperate with India in several fields, including culture, mineral exploitation, and agriculture.

Rao Asked To Influence Regional Stability

BK1602075093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Tajikistan has urged India to use its weight and political authority for peaceful settlement of conflicts to ensure stability in the region. Speaking at the banquet given in his honor in New Delhi, the visiting Tajik prime minister, Mr. Abdullodzhanov said though the end of the Cold War has eased global tensions, it has not noticeably influenced regional conflicts.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his remarks said friendship between India and Tajikistan should be a bulwark in defense of peace and stability. Both leaders expressed concern over religious fanaticism and cross-border terrorism.

Mr. Abdullodzhanov said Tajikistan is against attempts to impose any faith or ideology by force. He strongly opposed financing and supporting of armed groups which are propagating cleansing religion.

Mr. Narasimha Rao offered India's fullest cooperation in the economic and social development of Tajikistan and said opening up of the Indian economy will provide opportunities to its friends.

Abdullodzhanov Ends Visit

BK1602092193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The Tajikistan prime minister, Mr. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, has said that he is fully satisfied with the outcome of his visit to India. Speaking at the departure ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Abdullodzhanov said the two countries can set up joint ventures and cooperate in almost every sphere. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, who was present hoped that the two countries will have meaningful cooperation in the economic, political, and social fields.

Editorial Urges Articulation of Foreign Policy

BK1502090993 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 1 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Changed World"]

[Text] Two facts have come to light during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India and ignoring them could work against the articulation of Indian foreign policy. The first fact is that the Russian security cover will now be unavailable in the event of a state of war between India and a third country, which was otherwise envisaged in the India-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1971. Another fact is inherent in Yeltsin's suggestion that there should be a Moscow-Beijing-New Delhi axis in the interest of peace. The two facts are borne out of a vacuum created by the dissolution of blocs, rather the Socialist bloc. India's policy has been one of nonalignment, but we should not hesitate to admit that this nonalignment had, at some time or another, been slightly tilted toward the Socialist states. Nonalignment lost its earlier relevance following the destruction of the bastion of Socialism in Eastern Europe. Now the only thing of eminence within the parameters of concerns of the new nonalignment theory is how the nonaligned states can safeguard their economic well-being and economic independence. Thus, the emerging pattern suggests that India needs Russia as much as Russia needs India. This can also be said about China. If a meaningful axis can be really formed between these three countries, challenges posed by the United States, Japan, and now the unified Europe could be diminished. In this context, the Russian experience has to be recognized that whatever support you extend to the Western nations, they will keep you at a distance because you are an Asian.

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and, strategically, the world moving toward single-polarity, India has been forced to reassess its foreign policy concerns, but so far it has employed ad-hocism. India's two main foreign policy projections are: one, how to prevent neighbors from becoming adversaries, and two, how to turn friendship and ties with the rest of the world into a productive endeavor. In the first case, the need is to create mutual trust through strategic diplomatic initiatives, and in the second, economic diplomacy will work. If India's size makes our neighbours fearful, what should be done to eliminate this fear? If a fearful neighbor wants to acquire a (?deterrence), we should also know how to stop it. Whatever our internal policy in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam had been, it should not culminate in separatism which countries like Pakistan wanted to see. Even then, we need to have a fresh look at our internal policy.

By liberalizing economic policy, we have become obedient of the West, but this obedience may not essentially prove beneficial for us. That is why there is need for a foreign policy that can assure the West about investing in India. The need is of economic diplomacy. The efforts being made to make Germany and Japan the permanent members of the Security Council should be made to supplement India's own effort in this connection. India may not be gain as much importance as Russia and China in the global context, and that is not appropriate. [sentence as published]. The world is changing, and we can carve out a place for ourselves in this changed world while not ignoring our roots.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Denies Mir Aimal Kansi in Iran

LD1302142493 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry Saturday categorically denied American media claims that a Pakistani national suspected of killing of two CIA employees last month was now in Iran.

American press on Friday alleged that Mir Aimal Kansi, now wanted for killing two CIA employees outside the CIA Headquarters in Virginia on January 25, has travelled to Iran after a short visit to his home country.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1202163693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 12 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our international bureau of the judiciary has received 240 letters from 17 countries in one month. I sometimes refer to those monthly statistics here. I have also, once or twice, referred to actions that have been taken or are being taken. But today I would like to add to that. Many of those letters have come from an organization—and I do not see any problem mentioning its name here—called Amnesty International, a nongovernmental organization based in Europe that also claims it is trying to improve its relations with Iran. The organization has sent to me personally a copy of one of its recent publications in order to stress a religious matter and some other points. Apart from the official response that should be made, I would also like to mention some points to our noble nation.

First of all, apparently, these statistics have been mentioned here before, that out of 153 countries of the world, only 35 countries have done away with capital punishment. Eighteen countries have done this with regard to minor crimes, but they have retained capital punishment for major crimes. There are more than 100 countries that still allow capital punishment, even the United States. America is one of those countries that has capital punishment.

I do not understand why when, among other punishments, we implement capital punishment—either in cases laid down by God, in very few cases, or as a temporary measure when dealing with narcotic smugglers as decided by the Expediency Discernment Council—the world makes such a fuss and asks us why we have to capital punishment and then falsely states that these executions are political. I have repeatedly mentioned here that no person has ever been persecuted, is not currently being persecuted, and will not be persecuted in the future in our country for his or her beliefs, ideology, or the way that person thinks. In our country—I am also referring to those religious sects—all religious minorities, or even branches sprouting from those religious minorities, are living comfortably in this country and enjoy all their rights. There are people living in our country who do not believe in any kind of religion; they have no beliefs and do not interfere with other people, and we have nothing to do with them. They live their own lives.

Once again, I announce here that until a person has not actively participated in an action against the system—which in the first instance includes spying and its consequences, of which you are aware—we do not confront them solely for what they believe. What kind of remark is it to say that you have executed some people because of a certain ideology or religious belief? No, that person was either a drug smuggler who has been sentenced to death according to the law approved by the Expediency Discernment Council or it is a case for which the punishment has been laid down by God, and we cannot change those divine sentences to satisfy this or that person. These cases are very few and can be counted on one's fingers; for example, when someone commits a willful murder and the family of the person killed does not agree to forgive, does not accept blood money, and insists on retribution. Then it is their right and that right has been given to him by God.

Capital punishment also exists in other countries for such crimes. Then you accuse the judicial system of trials taking place without defending lawyers and without proper legal facilities. Very well, come and see and tell us which case are you talking about. Accused persons have lawyers, they are permitted to defend themselves; that person defends himself or herself, and most important of all, we have a supervisory Supreme Court that deals with these cases. The Supreme Court makes corrections to the case; then it is sent back explaining the problems. Sometimes, we even complain that a file has taken too long to be dealt with. But all these things take place to ensure that the accused enjoys his rights.

Therefore, the required official responses have been made and I am telling Amnesty International that in an official meeting they have announced their intention to amend their relations and leave political matters aside, intending truly to work for human rights as promised. Then what are these remarks? We have even provided them with evidence and documents regarding those cases which are being pursued.

Capital punishment is carried out in our country only in very few cases and under certain conditions. No authority has the right to alter that sentence. Our antinarcotics campaign benefits the whole world. In fact, we are also rescuing Europe with our campaign. The world benefits from it and we cannot allow our country to be infested because, for example, they ask why that narcotics smuggler was executed.

I reject all those accusations and say: Come and see for yourselves and then speak out. Unfortunately, a certain person has been named in that report, saying that that person has been sentenced for such an offence. Then I referred to that person's file and see that that person was a first class spy who was involved in turning over our country's secrets to the enemy. Capital punishment is used against these kinds of people everywhere in the world.

My time is short and I do not like to have to say to Mr. Clinton: You who have just started should behave more maturely. I say this from a legal standpoint, not from a political one. Fortunately, the world's legal experts have voiced the same objection to him, also. They said that to legalize abortion would trample on the rights of a living being in addition to propagating prostitution. I should really say to him: You should have waited for a little while, for you to get on your feet, then you could have embarked on such actions.

From a legal standpoint—as it is also the case in Islam—abortion is forbidden, it is a sin, blood money would have to be paid for it, be it the mother or, God forbid, the doctor who collaborates. It is forbidden in our country. There are very exceptional medical cases that require permission after certain inquiries are made. However, he thinks he is a democrat, so to speak, and liberal-minded, so he says that there is nothing wrong with this, that many people could freely commit this crime, as it were. And, as I said, some jurists have also voiced the same objection to him.

Concernaing his second action, I am ashamed to mention it here. His defense secretary said it was not the right thing to do, describing what the results would be. Unfortunately, he eventually did it and allowed them [gays] to enter the armed forces. In fact, it should be said that he made their corrupt forces even more corrupt and thought he was doing something good.

I really put all that down to lack of experience, lack of understanding of the world situation, to accepting corruption and prostitution and materialism and their economy. They think they can resolve all problems like this. His second action was very bad, too. However, one resigned and there were some changes in their set up. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Arabic Sermon Urges Muslim Solidarity

NC1202171693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, at Tehran University on 12 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world: The subject of the injustices against the Bosnian Muslims heads the list of Islamic topics, even more than events of today's world. In addition, the painful events in Afghanistan are regrettable due to the bloody clashes between two Islamic groups, which have brought woe upon woe to the country after years of religious war. In addition, we have the regrettable situation of the Palestinian deportees, who have been expelled by the powers occupying Jerusalem. Among them are men of religion, university professors, and Muslim revolutionaries. They face many problems living in the open. Regrettably, this usurping regime has not and will not abide by Security Council resolutions at all. All these unlawful and painful incidents are taking place in full view of those who claim to defend human rights.

What is the reason for this pressure on Islam and the Muslims? Does Islam seek anything other than dignified and honorable lives, the protection of moral and spiritual values, knowledge of the world and its creator, and true benefit from divine glories? Does Islam call for anything other than freedom, independence, a moral and pure life, and human joy?

Naturally, Islam does not allow anyone to usurp the rights of the Muslims by force, to control them, or to spread corruption, atrocities, repulsiveness, and immorality. In short, Islam does not accept arrogance, colonialism, or a life based only on material interests. Of course, the people in positions of authority and power do not like that. They are trying their best to prevent this school of thought from spreading.

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, only through unity and solidarity can the hand of colonialism be severed and we distance ourselves from the evil of foreigners. In all seriousness, we ask the fighting groups in Afghanistan to stop these unwise massacres and the battle for power, and to resolve their conflicts through dialogue. They should not allow foreigners to interfere. Our hopes are to aspire for the human life God wants and avoid the evil of enemies who instigate sedition and corruption. We hope that day will come.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To thee have we granted the fount of abundance. Therefore, to thy Lord turn in prayer and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee, he will be cut off from future hope. [Koranic verses]

Commentary Dismisses U.S. Proposal for Bosnia

LD1202203293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On Wednesday [10 February], the U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, by announcing a six-point plan on resolving the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis, put an end to world political circles' undue expectations which since the election of Mr. Clinton believed the United States can bring about a basic change in the current trend of the crisis.

In the U.S.-proposed plan, the necessity of cease-fire has been mainly stressed without referring to the manner of Serbs' expulsion from Muslim cities and villages. [sentence as heard]

Actually, the U.S. peace plan lacks any kind of new idea for putting an end to the civil war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. This plan is nothing more than a moderate diplomacy and it is not different from the Vance-Owen plan. The United States' recent decision was made while Serbs still continue with their heavy and barbaric invasions against residential units in east Bosnia-Hercegovina and everyday sources of innocent, excuse me, scores of innocent human beings are being either killed or injured.

Considering that the U.S.-proposed plan is mainly a political solution, the Serbs have not only supported this plan, but are continuing their expansionist plans with peace of mind. In this relation, the foreign minister of Serbia, Vladislav Jovanovic, congratulated the United States on Thursday [11 February] for supporting the Vance-Owen mediated Geneva peace conference. He also added: The Serbs specially appreciate the United States for respecting the agreement among the three groups involved in Bosnia-Hercegovina. One can clearly understand the reason behind the Serbs' pleasure with the U.S.-proposed plan which is confirmation by the United States of unjust division of Bosnia-Hercegovina among the three warring groups; namely, what the Serbs were seeking from the very beginning. Under the present conditions, the Serbs can complete their expansionist plan, specially the full seizure of the Muslim cities in east Bosnia while political talks will be held among warring sides.

Presently, the Serbs' military pressure in east Bosnia-Hercegovina has increased to the extent that scores of thousands of Muslims who are besieged by the Serbs are living under hard conditions. To protect these innocent human beings, the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina informed the UN on Thursday [11 February] that the city of Sarajevo has decided to reject humanitarian assistance. In this relation, the deputy prime minister of Bosnia has said: So long as assistance is not sent for such regions as Zadar and Srebrenica in east Bosnia, Sarajevo will refuse to accept any kind of assistance.

Despite such tangible realities, the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, instead of taking an effective measure in disarming the Serbs, with a helpless tone has called on the Serbs to lay down their arms. Over the past six months, the UN and the EC—and presently the United States—have called on the Serbs to stop unhuman acts and respect human rights. But the Serbs know well that these demands are only words and that these organizations and countries find their interest in giving them a free hand to implement their plans. Therefore, one can predict that the Serbs, knowing that the plan proposed by the United States is similar to the previous plans and that it will not have much impact on the situation, still continue with their crimes and commit new crimes before the eyes European rulers and human rights defenders.

Commentary on New U.S. Plan for Bosnia

LD1302150193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1112 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Clinton administration has put forward a six-point plan to the United Nations to find a solution for the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina. This plan comprises a number of points, including a mechanism for implementing the agreements, a point that previous conferences and agreements lacked.

Last week's New York peace negotiations became deadlocked because of the White House's criticism of the peace plan proposed by David Owen and Cyrus Vance, the mediators of the European Community and the United Nations, and because each was waiting for the United States to announce its peace plan.

There are four very noteworthy points in that plan. In its plan, the United States announces it is ready to send a special representative to participate actively in the current negotiations supervised by Vance and Owen. One noteworthy point is that the five-month long Geneva negotiations will be brought to a halt for a while by the sudden U.S. opposition to them; however, by proposing its six-point plan and announcing that it is sending a representative to the negotiations and by its implicit support for the Vance-Owen negotiations, the United States is in fact trying to prove once again that Washington has the final say in resolving European problems and that it is also a strong supporter of the peace effort.

Many political observers believe the new U.S. policy is a continuation of the same European policy—so much so, that the European Economic Community has supported the U.S. plan, saying that it is based on EC policy. News reports indicate that the United States consulted Owen and Vance on the cease-fire proposal. The remarks by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd can also be mentioned as an example of this claim. He claims that the new U.S. move has increased the possibility of deploying international solutions, and that peace effort, which has been on hold for weeks, can become more realistic.

The United States has also announced it is aiming to achieve coordination between the previous peace talks and the Vance-Owen peace efforts.

In any case, it should be mentioned that the new U.S. policy has drawn the attention of the world public opinion, particularly that of Muslims. All world circles are waiting for future developments so that they can make a better assessment of that plan.

Velayati on Regional Ties, Relations With West

LD1402163993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] In an all-media conference attended by foreign and domestic correspondents, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today explained the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on important regional and international isues.

On the expansion of relations with neighboring countries, he said: Iran pays special attention to the expansion of relations with neighboring countries. Our endeavors within regional economic organizations, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization and countries of the Caspian Sea littoral, stem from this same viewpoint.

The foreign minister referred to the latest communique of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] concerning the Iranian island of Abu Musa. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not compromise in any way regarding sovereignty over that island. To prove its goodwill within the framework of the 1971 treaty, it is prepared to conduct further talks with the UAE.

In reply to the question concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's position with regard to relations with the West, Mr. Velayati stated: On the basis of mutual respect, Iran calls for expanding relations with all Western countries. It does not see any important obstacles along the path to this.

He also pointed to the stances adopted by some Western countries in supporting Salman Rushdie, declaring: Through their adoption of this stance, these countries are standing in the face of the demands of the world of Islam.

Reiterating the need to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan, Velayati said: All the warring groups have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iran has taken positive steps toward resolving the Afghan people's problems. At present, Iran is initiating a series of new political moves for establishing peace and stability, as well as unity, among all Afghan groups.

Regarding relations between Iran and Egypt, our foreign minister noted the two countries' common historical and cultural record. He stated: At present, the two countries' interest sections in Tehran and Cairo are open, and Iran and Egypt have good cooperation in international organizations.

In reply to a question on the Islamic Republic's stance on America's six-point proposal on Bosnia-Hercegovina, he said: That plan, like the London proposal, will not alleviate the Bosnian people's problems.

Says Rushdie Verdict 'Irrevocable'

LD1402170893 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today deplored the recent decision of the United Nations Security Council for accepting Israel's six-point plan on the gradual return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

Speaking to the local and foreign media, the foreign minister said the Council issued a contradictory resolution shortly after the Resolution 799 which stipulated the unconditional return of the deportees. "This reveals the influence of the big powers in the Security Council," he added.

On the postponement of the visit of the Iranian First Vice-President Hasan Habibi to Turkey, Velayati said "the unhealthy atmosphere" created by some Turkish press had been effective in the delay.

"Despite the propaganda of some Turkish press, Prime Minister Demirel and other Turkish officials have stressed that there was no evidence for linking Iran to the recent incidents in Turkey," he said, noting that during the ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Quetta and in their Damascus meeting, the Turkish foreign minister had also reiterated on the same position.

Turning to the issue of Iraq, Velayati said Iran, Turkey and Syria do not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq. "However what is going on in Iraq has an impact on the regional security and on the security of the aforesaid countries, and therefore, we cannot be indifferent towards these developments (in Iraq)."

In answer to a question concerning the death verdict against the apostate author Salman Rushdie, he stressed that the verdict was "irrevocable". He said Rushdie's death verdict should not be an obstacle in the way of Iran's relations with Western countries, and regretted that the West was making a mistake by linking the fate of its relations with the Islamic countries to the fate of Rushdie.

He noted that several weeks after the historic verdict was issued by the late Imam Khomeyni other leaders of the Islamic countries had confirmed the verdict and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in a meeting in Jeddah had expressed support for the death sentence of Salman Rushdie.

On the recent remarks of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on the impact of Rushdie's death verdict on Tehran-London relations, Velayati said: "These remarks will not change Iran's position concerning an important Islamic issue." [passage omitted]

On the future of the relations with South Africa he said as long as the rights of the black people in that country were not restored, Iran's policy towards South Africa would not change.

He also termed as "positive" the efforts of the Islamic countries concerning the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and said if the Islamic countries had not resisted the "double standard" policy of the West at the Security Council, the condition of the Bosnian Muslims would have been much worse.

Velayati also announced that he would visit several Latin American countries, including Cuba, soon saying that Tehran and Havana have many grounds for economic cooperation.

Velayati Discusses Republic's Foreign Policy

NC1502062593 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Feb 93 pp 4-7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran on "the eve of the revolution anniversary"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] One of the distinctive characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran is its independent foreign policy. In fact, it can be said that Iran's foreign policy is unparalleled and different from the diplomacy currently prevailing in the world. Could you please tell us how decisions are made in our system?

[Velayati] As you said, Iran's foreign policy is unparalleled in the world. This is because there is no other government similar to it. We have our own exclusive beliefs and our own political, historical, geographical, and nationalistic orientations.

Of course, no country is entirely like another, but Iran has certain characteristics which do not conform to those of other countries. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Dr. Velayati, we have heard that our Foreign Ministry's experience has been, or will be placed at the disposal of countries that wish to remain independent. Is this true?

[Velayati] It is. We assist countries that wish to remain independent. Some important and progressive West European countries with longstanding precedents of foreign policy conceded, on visiting our Foreign Ministry, that we are far ahead of them in research and training in the field of foreign policy. They expressed the wish to implement a similarly formulated program in their own countries for research and training.

At present we have accepted groups from the newly independent countries for training in diplomacy. Groups arrived from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and recently from Lebanon and were duly trained. We also received requests from other countries and at present we are offering condensed, three-month courses. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] International developments have prompted the certain amount of flexibility in our decisionmaking. Do extraneous factors also affect our decisions? What is the mechanism involved?

[Velayati] International developments undoubtedly affect our decisionmaking. Of course, it is possible for a development to suddenly arise and force us to make a quick decision on whether to react to such political issues, especially regarding a particular incident that has occurred. Thus, our task is to react when warranted. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Countries usually keep their national interests in mind when formulating foreign policy. What factors does Iran keep in sight in this regard?

[Velayati] The interests of Islam and our national interests are the two main bases of our decisionmaking when it comes to foreign policy.

[Correspondent] At present, in view of our disparities with the domineering countries that also are seeking to uphold their own interests, what is the difference between us and them? What are the issues they keep in mind, and what are our considerations?

[Velayati] It is possible that a hegemonistic country will keep its own national interests and consider the domination of other countries as part and parcel of its own vital interests. In fact, what the domineering countries describe as their national interests do not reflect the slightest trace of human aspirations. Human beings are far more important than national frontiers. In some countries, national interests are a conglomeration of national interests and aspirations. [passage omitted]

As you can see, we are different. We are in the throes of reconstruction after many years of war. Heavy losses have been inflicted on our country, but even then we assist other countries. This is because our revolution and foreign policy are not based merely on material interests, the nation, and nationalism. The safeguarding of Iran's vital interests involves special priorities, and we do not act in conflict with the interests of other nations.

[Correspondent] If it is possible, could you provide us with some examples of independent positions that we have taken on the regional level and what their effects have been?

[Velayati] I can mention our positions on Israel's occupation of Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and our position on the Nonaligned Movement, in which the countries were bipolar—that is, rightist or leftist. From among these countries, Iran was the only one to protest the U.S. aggression against the Third World. [passage omitted]

Iran also was the first regional country to take an appropriate stand against Iraq and to adhere to it. Iran's independent stand played a fundamental role in deciding the ultimate outcome of this crisis. Why do we say it is independent? Perhaps you may say that other countries also took a stand; it was not the same, however, because we took a stand, but not on behalf of the United States.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Arab-Israel talks, Iran's stance is rather individualistic. Could you please tell us what pressure was exerted on Iran and what the consequences were?

[Velayati] The Israelis and the Zionist centers in the world embarked on an extensive propaganda campaign against us. If you closely examine it, the volume of the falsehoods and propaganda against Iran becomes evident. Lies, fabrications, and slander emanated from the Zionist circles. Concocted reports of nuclear weapons in Iran were disseminated. Iran is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], and when the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] visited Iran and inspected our installations, he announced that Iran has no nuclear weapons and is not seeking to manufacture them. Israel, however, has not signed the NPT, and its supporters also are aware that Israel has nuclear weapons but is not being subjected to pressure. Iran has signed the NPT and has no nuclear weapons. The IAEA chief also has confirmed the same, but Iran is under pressure! This is just an example of the consequences of taking a rightful stand on occupied Palestine.

[Correspondent] Numerous events in the world are taking place rapidly, and naturally many nations are awaiting the swift declaration of Iran's positions. In view of the mechanism for making decisions on foreign policy matters, have any particular measures been envisaged for expediting such decisionmaking?

[Velayati] Issues which demand swift, crucial decisions are coordinated with his excellency the president and the great leader of the revolution. Whenever immediate decisions are required, we do not have any problem obtaining the viewpoints of the relevant authorities.

[Correspondent] Dr. Velayati, in view of the fact that your excellency has been at the head of the country's diplomatic apparatus for many years now following the revolution, what is your current assessment of Iran's status in the world?

[Velayati] Iran has the capacity of being an independent country in the true sense of the word. It is a great country and the Iranian people are a unified nation. Iran is not a country that was drawn up on the basis of the greed of particular colonial powers. Neither has our nation been artificially grafted. [passage omitted]

At present, our friends and foes alike view Iran as the country that is the center and mecca of the aspirations of all Muslims. There are some who are unhappy with us, but we reiterate that we are not at war with anyone. We are seeking peace and cooperation among nations, but at the same time we are not prepared to suffer domination by other countries.

[Correspondent] It appears that the actual efforts of the powers of world arrogance—that is, the United States and the West—aim to ensure that no country emerges in our region—or even in Asia, Africa, or Europe—that would even slightly resemble Iran. They apparently have invested a lot in this cause. In your opinion, will they succeed, or will we witness the establishment of other Islamic republics in other countries?

[Velayati] As you have stated, they are not happy that Iran is a model for the 50 Islamic countries. This is because the domineering powers have not had very pleasant experiences regarding Iran. This, of course, is related to their perception of countries that they think should change. If they believe that a country should continue as it was before a revolution and have the same kind of relations with them, well, you can see the results.

[Correspondent] The West has overtly declared that it is fearful of the exportation of the Islamic revolution to other countries. At this juncture, we are witnessing the rise of Islamism, which the Westerners compare with communism except that it is on a more extensive scale. The West is terrified about communism being replaced by Islamic ideology in Central Asia and in other Islamic countries and is apprehensive of the actions of others. It is for this reason that the Westerners have coined the term "fundamentalism," which is used in a negative and pejorative context. In this manner, they wish to project a harsh image of Iran to intimidate other nations. How do you assess this?

[Velayati] The Westerners have certain aspirations which are linked to humanism [preceding word in English]; that is, humanism which is minus God. In brief, this is their last word; that is, the abandoning of all moral or theological values as well as religion. [passage omitted]

The Westerners consider themselves the world's first-class citizens and cannot tolerate any other claimants to this position. The difference is that, if the Third World's peoples were to come to Iran, they would never experience any alienation. This is because we believe in the same lofty aspirations. We do not become pompous before others, and we also do not care for those who assume a high and mighty posture. This is what infuriates them, and if this attitude would prevail universally, the domineering powers would be completely destabilized throughout the world. This is the main root of the West's perturbation.

Velayati Discusses Relations With Turkey

TA1602114093 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2020 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Mehmet Ali Birand in Tehran for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded in English with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Birand] Mr. Minister, there is quite a strong feeling in Turkey that Iran is extremely active there. The Turkish people believe that the Iranian secret service carries out assassinations in Turkey and that certain terrorist groups receive aid from Iran. I would like to hear clearly from you if you have any ties with these groups. What does Iran want to do?

[Velayati] We have very good and historical relations with the government and people of Turkey. Iran has no ties with these groups.

[Birand] Maybe the Iranian state has nothing to do with them officially, but isn't it possible that certain Iranian groups outside the state are setting up this network of contacts?

[Velayati] No activity designed to harm Turkish-Iranian relations can be conducted by escaping from the Iranian state's control. Nobody and no group can train people from another country. That is impossible. There are no activities or movements in Iran that are geared against Turkey. We have been trying to strengthen our relations for exactly 14 years. Why should we undo this with our own hands now?

[Birand] Those members of the Islamic Action who were caught in Turkey made certain important declarations; for example, they said that they were trained in a camp located between Tehran and Qom. They even gave a telephone number. How is this possible?

[Velayati] First of all, giving a telephone number is not difficult; however, it does not prove anything. Second, we also have accusations and allegations against the Turkish Government.

[Birand] What, for example?

[Velayati] For instance, the Turkish Government directly or indirectly supports terrorists groups that are opposed to the Islamic regime in Iran. The terrorist group that calls itself Mojahedin-e Khalq assassinated many of our high-ranking officials over the past 14 years.

[Birand] Do you have any evidence?

[Velayati] Yes, this was reported by our security services, who also say that some members of this group live in Turkey and that the Turkish Government supports them.

[Birand] Do you believe that?

[Velayati] I said this as an example; in other words, there are many mutual allegations. Let us study all of them. The duty of the security cooperation committee we set up jointly last year is to take measures to stop terrorism in both countries. It is an official and important decision by the two governments. Let us relay all the mutual allegations to this committee. Let it study them.

[Birand] Did you catch any of the terrorists belonging to this Mojahedin-e Khalq group in Iran? Did you determine that they are trained in Turkey? Or where they are trained in Turkey? In other words, do you have a specific list of accusations against Turkey? Did you give it to the Turkish authorities?

[Velayati] As I said, there are certain documents. We informed our Turkish brothers of this situation. They are aware of it. That is why we set up the security committee. Earlier, we were accused of supporting the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. At the time we said: All right, present your accusations to the committee, and we will study our mutual accusations there. That is the only solution.

[Birand] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin gave you the documents related to Turkey's allegations. What do you plan to do? Will you say you have nothing to do with them and hand them over to the committee? What are you going to do about this?

[Velayati] I have not received any written evidence or documents from Hikmet Cetin. He only showed me a telephone number. He said the suspects communicated with somebody at this number in Tehran. This does not prove anything. The Turkish security forces also found a weapon (?traced) to the Iranian Defense Ministry. It was purchased years ago. I said to Cetin: We fought for eight years. Some 40,000 of our people became prisoners of war. Thousands of our weapons remained in Iraq. So the weapon found in Turkey might be one of them. What Cetin relayed to me is nothing more than an allegation; it is not evidence. It does not show that Iran is behind these incidents. Anyway, the investigation in Turkey is still going on.

[Birand] Mr. Minister, I am sorry but I must ask you again: What are you doing now? Are you conducting an investigation? Will you say that because you did not do it, you will wait for Turkey to come up with specific evidence?

[Velayati] That is what I said to you. The allegations and accusations are mutual; they are not one-sided. We are faced with security problems every day. Consequently, this committee must meet regularly and study the allegations of the two sides.

[Birand] In a way, what you are saying is that you will wait for the committee to convene and for Turkey to come up with the evidence it is holding. You will not do anything until that time. Is that correct?

[Velayati] That is the normal procedure.

[Birand] The reason for my insistence is simple: The Turkish public expected you to react immediately. It expected you to say that you would launch an investigation immediately and that you would hand over those responsible, if found, to the judicial authorities. That is what we wanted to hear from you.

[Velayati] Had the allegations you mention been one-sided only, you would be right; the problems, however, are mutual. You complain of the groups allegedly supported by Iran, and we complain of the groups supported by Turkey. These are mutual allegations. They can be studied only by the committee.

[Birand] Does Iran really have ties with the antisecular circles in Turkey?

[Velayati] Our relations as a government are with the Turkish Government. We establish relations through the embassies and only through the Turkish Government, through official delegations; that is all. You, the press, are not playing a positive role.

[Birand] Do you believe that it is the press that is creating all this?

[Velayati] No, but I can tell you this very frankly: I have been guiding our foreign policy for the past 12 years, and our basic principle is friendship with neighboring countries. Turkey is our most important neighbor. We certainly do not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs. It is not true that we want to change the system in Turkey.

[Birand] The press did not invent all the movements.

[Velayati] Not all of them. Some want to harm our relations. If there are groups in Turkey that like our model and are inspired by these values, you cannot say that it is Iran that created them.

[Birand] Are you not helping these groups at all? Aren't you advising them, at least?

[Velayati] That is not our job. Why should we do that? Your people do not need any advice about this issue. You have 1,000 years of Islamic civilization behind you. They know everything well enough. Why do you say that those who uphold Islamic values are inspired by Iran? Islamic values are sufficiently known in your country.

[Birand] The impression in Turkey is that Iran does not like the secular system in our country.

[Velayati] Everyone is entitled to his opinion, of course, and every government has its own policy. We do not like secularism. We do not want secularism in Iran. That is why we set up a government in line with Islamic principles.

[Birand] Are you not trying to export your system?

[Velayati] No, we do not want to export our system through the use of guns. However, if one holds a different world view, there are those who may listen and try to change themselves.

President Urges Completion of Nuclear Plant

NC1502082493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his tour of Bushehr Province with a visit to the Bushehr nuclear power plant last night. He inspected the various departments of the power plant and spoke to the personnel and experts of the nuclear plant. Stressing Iran's resolve to complete this project, he said: We are determined to put this project into operation by all possible means, regardless of whether or not the Germans take any steps toward completion of the work on this project.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Bushehr nuclear power plant will be completed in conformity with international standards and efforts will be made to obtain the various resources, equipment, and apparatus necessary for it.

Last evening, Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited the industrial exhibition of various food processing, agricultural, and marine products from Bushehr. [passage omitted]

UAE's Khalifah Bin-Zayid, Torkan Hold Talks

LD1502122293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Defense Minister Torkan yesterday met and conferred with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid, the heir apparant of Abu Dhabi and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. In the meeting, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and acting commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces described Iran as a large neighbor with which it has had profound historial bonds. He said the two countries' cooperation is very important in terms of establishing an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation and strengthening peace and stability in the region. Mr. Torkan, for his part, described such meetings as conducive to the expansion of bilateral ties and the removal of problems.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Afghan Cease-Fire

LD1502143893 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Foreign Ministry here Monday expressed Iran's satisfaction with the recent cease-fire established among the rival groups in Afghanistan.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman hoped that the Afghan mojahedin groups by engaging in constructive negotiations would turn the cease-fire into a permanent peace. He stressed that continued fightings have produce nothing but destruction of resources and weakening of Afghan groups.

Commentary on Reduced Oil Output, Price Boost

LD1302201293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The oil ministers of the 12 states from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, have gathered in Vienna today to discuss within the framework of the session of the organization's Market Monitoring Committee the manner of cutting the production ceiling. [passage omitted]

It appears that all the OPEC members have reached a consensus over improving the oil prices, especially after the recent visit of the Venezuelan president of the OPEC to various member states and his meeting with their leaders concerning a revision in the previous agreements and a cut in the organization's production ceiling. Only Kuwait, which is pursuing its reconstruction program in the wake of the havoc caused by the Persian Gulf war and which has increased its crude output to nearly two million barrels, has so far shown no inclination in this regard.

At any rate it is indisputable that this session will adopt a decision on cutting the OPEC's production ceiling by one to 1.5 million barrels per day. In the opinion of all experts, a cut of 1.5 million barrels in the oil production can help to boost the oil prices. But a cut of only one million barrels per day will merely stabilize the crude prices at the present level. However, irrespective of any decision to be adopted by the OPEC in this respect, it appears that the organization's line of action and performance have greater significance for the oil market and those involved in it. The reason is that, regretfully, since the termination of the Persian Gulf war the OPEC's agreements and commitments on crude production and price have rarely been adhered to.

Pakistan

Further Reportage, Commentary on Kansi Issue

Iran 'May Join' Search for Suspect

BK1602114193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] Karachi—Iran may join the hunt for Mir Aimal Kansi, the Pakistan suspect in the January 25 shooting at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, Pakistani sources confirmed on Monday. A well-placed source said Pakistan made an initial approach to Tehran through diplomatic channels late last week. He said a dialogue on the case is likely when the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, who is in Islamabad for a meeting of senior Foreign Office officials, returns to the Iranian capital.

The official added that Pakistan made the approach independently, "on a purely bilateral and neighborly basis." He denied rumours, circulating in the capital, that the approach was made at "the United States prodding." He added that Iranian officials had not rejected the proposal outright "and it is likely Iran may put its extensive law-enforcement system on alert in the next forty-eight hours."

Officials close to the tightly guarded and diplomatically sensitive move said the decision to tap the Iranians for their help came after intelligence reports that Kansi may have already slipped into Iran.

Despite the Pakistani side's contention that the approach was "independent," however, political observers said Iran's decision not to dismiss Pakistan's request out of hand may signal a softening of Tehran's hardline posture towards the United States.

Others contended, meanwhile, that Pakistani diplomats have come to recognise "a distinct difference between hardline Iranian rhetoric on the one hand, coming mostly from the clerics, and increasingly open diplomacy on the other." These observers said the idea of taking Iranian help was "based on the operative principle that Iran may see helping in the search as a way of winning points in the regional arena."

Such cooperation would relieve growing US pressure on Pakistan to produce results in the nationwide manhunt, which followed the first ever incident of a direct attack on intelligence officials within the US by a foreign national.

That foreign national's being a Pakistani has worried Islamabad at a time when relations with Washington are already strained following US threats over the last three months that Washington will put Pakistan on the terrorist states list.

In fact, souces close to the Kansi investigation said yesterday the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team running the search operation appears to have taken an anti-terrorist tack in its initial probe of Kansi's past life and activities. The FBI is reportedly closely studying information gathered on Kansi's life in Quetta for links to political groups, ideological affiliations, and patterns of contact with political and intelligence figures. The officials said information gathered so far suggests Kansi was largely apolitical during his days at Baluchistan University and had minimal contact with Afghan groups and their representatives in Quetta.

However, the US is reportedly keen to see if Kansi is among the growing number of Afghan war veterans and their associates who have lately turned their expertise against pro-American governments in the Middle East and Africa.

"It is not clear yet if Kansi meets this profile," said one official. "He may not. But it is significant that they (the Americans) are checking for something like this."

"Something like this" refers to a series of incidents in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria in which guerrillas trained by US and Pakistani intelligence have been involved in bombings, assassinations, and terrorist attacks on government functionaries and installations.

According to US officials, the fundamentalist Muslims arrested for the assassination of Egypt's moderate speaker of parliament was a guerrilla trained in Pakistan to fight for the Mojahedin. Following the assassination, Egypt began arbitrarily arresting all young men returning to the country from Pakistan.

Similarly, Tunisian intelligence reportedly blames Afghan-trained fundamentalist militants for an unsuccessful attempt last May to shoot down a plane carrying President Ben Ali.

Earlier this year, Jordanian intelligence suspected the involvement of erstwhile Mojahedin in a series of bomb explosions in the Jordanian capital, Amman. And the extremist Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria has an armed wing which is almost entirely staffed by men trained by the Afghans and the Pakistanis.

Kansi's emergence from a Pakistani city that was a hub of activity during the covert Afghan war, has put a damper on public relations efforts, by Pakistani embassies in these countries, not to mention the US.

Dispute With CIA Over Money Cited

BK1502163793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 14 Feb 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad (Special Correspondent)—The Pakistani investigating agencies have completed their detailed report on Pakistani accused Aimal Kansi involved in the shooting to death of two CIA employees in the United States. The report will be submitted to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in a day or two.

The report says that Aimal Kansi was a regular CIA agent and was appointed by the CIA, which later took him to the United States where he was issued a green card. The report adds that Aimal Kansi had quarreled with the CIA over money transactions. The 28-year-old Aimal Kansi had fled to Karachi from New York a day after the incident took place in front of the CIA headquarters three weeks ago. It has been confirmed that Kansi had gone to his house situated near Afghan border in Balochistan. But, later, he was missing since Sunday. The Pakistani authorities suspect that Aimal Kansi has fled to Afghanistan from Pakistan, which is in constant touch with Afghan Government for his arrest. Aimal Kansi was hired by the CIA at a time when a war was going on against the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan. The CIA had supplied arms to Afghan mojahedin through Aimal Kansi through a secret operation. An old dispute has been going on between Kansi and the CIA over the "secret deal" for arms smuggling and as a result of this dispute, Kansi killed two CIA employees and injured two others with his AK-47 automatic rifle in front of the CIA headquarters three weeks ago.

U.S. To Call Nation on 'Terrorist State'

BK1502145693 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Shahzada Zuifiqar]

[Text] Quetta—Is Mir Aimal Kansi, a psycho-case or did he work for CIA whose agents he allegedly killed or was he associated with a terrorist organisation, are the questions agitating the minds of some people in Balochistan as well as in the country and perhaps in United States.

The people, who were interviewed by THE NATION did not believe that the man, who had neither political affiliations nor was involved in any criminal activety, could commit such a crime. However, some of them including the well-educated ones were happy to know about the death of CIA agents due to their anti-American feelings. "Really Aimal is a hero and did a great job, if he did it as CIA has played a vital role in promoting terrorism in the world", said one student of Balochistan University. A religious, but uneducated man expressed, "it is the case of Almighty God upon America, the enemy or Islam and of human beings, that a young boy gave it a severe setback." Many people quoting the role of American in Iraq, Palestine, Kashmir, Libya and Bosnia flayed it, saying that whenever it wanted, it declared a country which was not towing its line through its "subservient body" United Nations a terrorist state, while, on the other hand, defended Israel and India despite their acts of terrorism and human rights violations.

It has been learned from the relatives of Aimal Kansi that the man-hunt continues for arresting him. Kansi felt very lonely after the death of his mother in 1982 and father in 1989. The cruel treatment of his three step brothers and five sisters alienated him from his relatives and drove him out of Pakistan. The treatment of his step brothers made him psychopath and some time he behaved like a mad-man, they revealed. One of his classmates in the university, Muhammad Saghir, said: "Aimal as far as I knew him had not done anything wrong in the university, but in the States he might have come into contact with some criminals." A teacher of English Department of Balochistan University, said Aimal used to tease his teachers which indicated his psychological problems. One of his relatives, holds his brothers and family who brought Aimal to the brink of destruction by their treatment, and said had he been treated nicely, he would never have gone to the States and involved himself in such a crime.

There are also people who see this affair as a drama staged by CIA itself and related the killing incident with America's intention, to include Pakistan in the list of terrorist states. They viewed that they were taken aback on learning about the killing of two CIA men by an untrained Pakistan. How he did it and manage to escape from America, without the active help of some one very powerful, they added.

The family sources revealed that Aimal who seemed to be perturbed, came to Pakistan at the end of January last and stayed for about eight days. He spent only a day or two with his brother and sojourned with his relatives for the remaining six days. He left saying that he was returning to the States via Karachi.

Meanwhile, the security agencies had made lists of his relatives and friends, put their houses, under strict watch. [punctuation as published]

They are bumper traced when they come out of their houses. The official sources confirmed that his family particularly his brothers are cooperating fully with the government in hunting down Aimal while his relatives alleged that his brothers were desirous of seeing him in "electric chair".

The security agencies who think that Aimal Kansi is hiding in the province apprehend that Pakistan may be trapped by America through fabricated statements and declared a terrorist state.

'Startling' Disclosures on Motives

BK1502154393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[By Shakil Shaka and Ansar Ahbasi]

[Excerpts] Islamabad: While an FBI team from Bangkok will land here Sunday to help in tracing out Mir Aimal Kansi, Pakistan on Saturday put the accused on the Exit Control List (ECL).

28-year-old Quetta-based Mir Kansi has been [words indistinct] in shooting down two CIA men near CIA headquarters on the outskirts of Washington some three weeks ago.

The FBI Chief in Bangkok will land here for talks with Pakistani officials on Sunday to probe whether the missing Kansi was involved in any disputes that might have given him "a motive" for the CIA shootings.

According to indications available here, the probe in the CIA shootings has been assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) by the United States government. Sources say a few FBI and CIA investigators have already arrived here to explore the matter.

A sensitive ageny has been assigned to carry out "emergency investigations" to trace the missing young man.

Preliminary investigations reveal that Kansi did visit his home in Quetta and stayed there for about 4 days and then disappeared after telling his family members that he is going to the United States.

However, some sources claim that Afghanistan is the current hideout of the daring killer, and it may now be impossible for anybody to get hold of him.

With indications of startling disclosures about the motive behind the CIA shootings, Kansi was reportedly hired by CIA for its own purposes. These included CIA's secret operation by which weapons were supplied to groups of Afghan mojahedin against the then communist government in Afghanistan.

Details reveal that Kansi was "a go-between" the CIA and Afghan leaders in the arms deals during the anti-communist war in Afghanistan. Some say that the CIA failed to honour some of its commitments to Mir Kansi, who in a fit of rage, shot down two CIA employees in Washington. [passage omitted]

Reports say that the CIA promptly announced that Mir Kansi was not employed by the agency. But it came to be known that he did work as a courier for a nearby firm run by Christian Marchetti, whose father, Victor Marchetti, was an aide to a former CIA director, Richard Helms.

Officials of the Interior Ministry are totally ignorant about the whereabouts of Mr. Kansi, who according to one source, was a green card holder.

The ministry has reportedly not yet initiated any investigation into the matter. Some officials, however, confirmed that they had not received any request from the Foreign Office or anybody else to trace out Mir Kansi.

Embassy Officer in Washington Cited

BK1302112093 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Washington (JANG correspondent)—Police have launched a massive manhunt for a Pakistani citizen believed to be the prime suspect in the shooting down of two CIA employees outside the agency headquarters last month. Pakistan has assured the United States of wholehearted cooperation in this regard. The CIA has said that Mir Aimal Kansi had never been its employee. The FBI has announced that Mir Aimal Kansi tops the list of suspects in the 25 January murder of two CIA employees by indiscriminately shooting them on the street leading to the CIA office. Kansi has been included in the FBI list of 10 most wanted persons and a worldwide hunt has been launched for him.

A senior officer of the Pakistani Embassy told the JANG correspondent that as Kansi was permanently residing in the United States and the crime was committed there, all proceedings will be carried out in accordance with U.S. law. About 50 FBI agents checked records of 2,040 arms shops in the vicinity of Washington, which revealed that AK-47 rifles had been sold during the last 12 months and police had been given a list of their buyers. It has been learned during investigations that Mir Aimal Kansi disappeared three days after the CIA incident and that his Pakistani roommate had informed the police of his disappearance. Police recovered from his apartment an AK-47 rifle and a jacket on which pieces of glass were found. It may be recalled that the waiting cars on way to the CIA headquarters had their windows fired at and police suspect that the glass pieces on Kansi's jacket are from these cars. A source told JANG, however, that drawing such "proof" is doubtful because a person involved in such a crime would not have left his weapon and clothes at his place of residence and the first thing the criminal would have done is destroy such evidence. The CIA says that Kansi does not have any connection with any terrorist organization.

Agency Directed To Help FBI

BK1302122093 Rawalpindi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 12 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Islamabad (ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN)—A U.S. FBI team will soon visit Pakistan to investigate Mir Aimal Kansi, the alleged killer of two CIA officers. The Government of Pakistan has directed the Federal Investigation Agency to conduct investigations and cooperate with the FBI team in every possible manner so that Aimal Kansi is arrested. If he is caught in Pakistan, he will be handed over to the United States.

When these sources were asked whether the incident will not bolster the U.S. proposal to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, they said that the accused was granted political asylum by the United States. Pakistan did not send him to America. So it was the mistake of the Americans and not our fault. Aimal Kansi entered the United States on 3 March 1991 and sought political asylum, citing political vengeance against him in Pakistan. He was issued a work permit. He was working as a delivery man while the decision on his political asylum was still pending.

'Suspicious Activities' of U.S. Envoys Viewed

BK1502120193 Rawalpindi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 6 Feb 93 pp 3, 6

[Text] Islamabad (NNI) [expansion unknown]—American diplomats based in Islambad have embarked on suspicious activities throughout the country on the pretext of study tours. Not only Adviser, Political Counselor, Consul General, but the first secretary-level diplomats have also fanned out in small and big cities of the country and are busy in secret talks with various political and religious leaders. After touring the interior parts of Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, and Sindh, the American ambassador is now busy in Balochistan. It is the first occasion in the history of Pakistan that American diplomats are carrying out an undeclared people's contact program at the level of political leaders from Khyber to Karachi and Gawadar. So far, nothing has been learned about the nature of their mysterious activities. Observers are of the opinion that the suspicious activities of the American diplomats are quite significant in view of the ever unsuccessful opposition campaigns against the Nawaz Sharif government in Pakistan. Observers also feel that the United States Government has activated its diplomats to elicit first-hand information about the real thinking of the people of Pakistan. During these tours, the American diplomats wish to assess the wrath of the people against the United States after the Gulf war. Similarly, the United States also wants to make a direct assessment of the effects of the regular and coordinated campaign launched by religious organizations against it and all these activities are a part of this process.

Editorial Questions Motives of U.S. Commandos

BK1602111193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 16 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] Qazi Hussain Ahmad the Amir Jamaat-I-Islami alleged the other day that some sixty US commandos had landed at Cherat near Peshawar, the base and training camp of Pakistani commandos. Subsequently reiterating the charge he said that the American commandos had come to launch an offensive operation against some Mojahedin groups and their leaders in Afghanistan. Although he did not name the Afghan Mojahedin leaders against whom a commando action was imminent, Qazi Sahib left no one in doubt that the target of American commandos was the Hezb-e Eslami Chief Golboddin Hekmatyar who is locked in a fierce battle with the government of Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani.

The government, for its part, however, has maintained mystifying silence about it. When asked by Pressmen, the Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Wahid, sought to downplay the issue by first denying the presence of American commandos and then retracing a bit and asserting that joint US and Pakistan military exercises were a routine affair. So now we have been put wise; the US commandos are here for 'joint military exercises' with their Pakistani counterparts.

Even during the days when Pressler Law had not been invoked, joint military exercises by the commandos of the two countries was never heard of. As a matter of fact, whenever American commandos have left for another country they had done so for some specific military mission. Whether they were despatched by President Carter to Iran or sent in droves to Lebanon, Grenada, Panama or more recently to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the object has been the achievement of a certain well-defined military objective. They are not sent out just for fun. What is the military objective they are supposed to achieve now in Peshawar, so close to Afghanistan and until now the springboard for military adventures of Mojahedin against the Communist regime of President Najibollah?

If what Qazi Hussain Ahmad says is true, we might be unwittingly confounding further the already confused Afghan imbroglio. It will add an entirely new dimension to our relations with our neighbour Afghanistan. Until now we have been supporting the Mojahedin against Communists and aliens. Now we will be supporting one Mojahedin faction against the other in what is clearly an internal tussle for political power which has nothing to do with Islam and Jehad. Worse still, we will be allowing the use of our territory by a foriegn force to achieve its own strategic and political objectives in Afghanistan. The price of such a venture will eventually have to be paid by Pakistan.

Mr Gohar Ayub Khan has asked the government on Sunday that it should come out with a policy statement in Parliament on the issue to avoid mass confusion created by the landing of these American commandos. All sorts of rumours will continue to circulate until the government clarifies the position. The government must act before such rumours cause severe national damage.

France To Continue Defense Cooperation

BK1202164293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] France will continue its military cooperation with Pakistan. This was stated by the French minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Georges Kiejman, while speaking at a dinner in Karachi hosted in his honor by the French consul general. He said if France cooperates with Pakistan in the defense field, it will not make Islamabad militarily superior in the region. The French minister said that there was natural imbalance in armaments between Pakistan and India because Pakistan is in a delicate position as a result of the stance taken by the United States.

The French minister said that the discussions were continuing with Pakistan for the purchase of French Mirage fighter aircraft in order to diversify its resources of defense. [sentence as heard] He said his talks with the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; and the federal ministers for finance, defense, and foreign affairs in Islamabad were very frank, warm, and friendly. He said the Kashmir issue also came under discussion during the talks and his country was of the view that international forums should take stock of the situation in the territory where human rights are being violated.

Kanjoo on 'Brutalities' in Kashmir, Nuclear Issue

BK1202161493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan will move a resolution at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva asking for a commission or a neutral body to be sent to the Kashmir Valley to investigate Indian occupation forces' brutalities on the Kashmiri people. This was stated by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, while talking to newsmen in Multan today. He said the Indian denial of permission to the Islamic Conference Organization's fact-finding mission to visit occupied Kashmir is clear proof that India wants to hide its criminal activities from the international community and this also proves that large-scale brutal activities against innocent people in occupied Kashmir are continuing.

Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said that despite the fact that the Indian Government had given assurances that it would not allow the demolition and desecration of Babri Mosque, it could not protect it. India has not only completely failed to protect the Babri Mosque, it has also not fulfilled its international pledges to safeguard the lives and property of its largest Muslim minority community.

About the situation in Afghanistan, the minister of state said we are in constant touch with the Kabul administration and leaders of other groups to establish peace in that country. He added that Pakistan considers it as its duty that whenever it is approached for conciliatory efforts, it is happy to help its brethren in Afghanistan. He said fighting is not the answer to any issue and opposition groups should sit down together and find a solution through dialogue. He said Pakistan desires brotherly friendly relations with a free sovereign Islamic Government of Afghanistan.

Answering a question on nuclear policy, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said Pakistan has many times put forward a proposal to make South Asia a nuclear weapons free zone. Pakistan has also moved resolutions at the United Nations in this regard. China, the United States and Russia have already accepted Pakistan's proposal [on a five-nation conference on nuclear issues] in South Asia. He hopes that India will respond appropriately and responsibly to make South Asia a nuclear weapons free zone.

Concerning relations with the United states, the minister of state said Pakistan desires extremely close relations and wants to work together with the new U.S. administration.

On relations with Russia, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo said in-depth discussions will be held during the prime minister's visit to Moscow this year for forging an objective relationship with that country and Pakistan is looking forward to these discussions.

'Black' Day Observed in Indian Kashmir

BK1202143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] People in occupied Kashmir observed black day today to protest against the Indian troops atrocities during a strike in the past two days.

According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] demonstrators defied curfew restrictions at several places in the valley. The Indian troops used force to disperse the demonstrators, killing and wounding many of them. Military authorities in the valley imposed curfew in Srinagar and several other towns to counter strike call given by mojahedin organizations. People took to the streets of curfew-bound towns and raised anti-Indian slogans and waved black flags.

Meanwhile, eight troops were killed and 15 people, including five mojehedin, were martyred in various encounters across the valley.

ICO Mission on Kashmir Arrives 14 Feb

BK1402145193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] fact-finding mission to probe human rights violations in occupied Kashmir flew into Islamabad today. In a statement, the ICO assistant secretary general, Mr. Ibrahim Bakr, expressed grave concern over the plight of Kashmiri people, who have been subjected to a reign of terror and oppression by Indian troops for demanding their right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council resolution. He regretted that India has once again turned down the request of the ICO to allow the fact-finding mission to visit occupied Kashmir. He said Indian repression has reached alarming dimensions and cannot be overlooked by the international community. International scrutiny of grave and systematic violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir is unavoidable.

Mr. Ibrahim Bakr said the ICO at the ministerial and summit level has condemned the massive violation of human rights of Kashmiri people and called for respect for their rights, including the right to self-determination. It has also called upon India to allow human rights groups and organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir. The ICO assistant secretary general said: We have received numerous reports about the brutal treatment being meted out to the people in occupied Kashmir by Indian security forces. He will meet Kashmir refugees, who have been forced to leave their homes by Indian troops, to have first hand information regarding human rights situation in occupied Kashmir.

ICO Leader Apprised of Situation

BK1502162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] The leader of Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] fact-finding mission on human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, Ibrahim Bakr, held talks with Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan in Islamabad today. The foreign secretary apprised him of the grave situation being faced by the people of occupied Kashmir due to the acts of brutality and oppression committed against the realization of their right of self-determination. He said the mission has full rights to visit any part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan to find out the truth behind the Indian allegations that Pakistan is providing military assistance to the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir. He also asked the mission leader to meet the refugees, who have left Kashmir after getting fed up with the violence, atrocities, oppression, and other brutal acts committed by India. Shaharyar Khan said the ICO and the international community should decide for themselves as to what should be the reaction to the gross violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir.

The mission leader, who is also the assistant secretary general of the ICO, will leave for Azad Kashmir tomorrow.

Sharif, Others Address Envoys to ECO Countries

BK1402114193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said that Pakistan will have to play an important role to make the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] a meaningful and practical organization. In this context, he directed the Pakistani envoys accredited to the ECO member states to accelerate their efforts to exploit the reservoir of goodwill that already existed for Pakistan in the ECO region. He made these observations while presiding over the conclusion session of the Pakistani envoys' three-day in-depth deliberations held at the Foreign Office in Islamabad. Earlier, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, and the foreign secretary, Mr. M. Shaharyar Khan, gave a comprehensive presentation on significance of the envoys conference and its various proposals. They briefed them on the recommendations for follow-up action on the Quetta action plan. The prime minister also listened to individual presentations made by the ambassadors.

Malaysia's Mahathir Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK1402145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, flew into Islamabad this evening on a four-day visit to Pakistan. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, welcomed the Malaysian prime minister at the airport. A high-level delegation accompanies the Malaysian prime minister.

During his stay, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is to hold talks with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on bilateral issues. Key international and regional issues including Kashmir and Bosnia-Hercegovina will also come up for discussion.

Holds Talks With Sharif

BK1502155693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Formal talks between the prime ministers of Malaysia and Pakistan—Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed and Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif—were held in Islamabad today. The talks focused mainly on ways and means to further enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed in principle to address the problem of trade imbalance between the two countries. Concerned ministers of the two countries will meet tomorrow to discuss concrete measures in this regard. Export of Pakistani manpower to Malaysia will also be discussed. The two prime ministers also reviewed international and regional situation on which both sides have similar perceptions. They included the issues of Kashmir, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Central Asia, and South-South cooperation. Cooperation between ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN was also discussed by the two sides. Both the prime ministers were assisted by their cabinet ministers and senior government officials.

The Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed, flew into Peshawar on a short visit. Soon after his arrival, the distinguished guest flew through Khyber Pass and had a view of Pakistani-Afghan border. At the (Machli) checkpost, he was given a briefing about the salient features of the historic Khyber Pass and geographical importance of the area.

Mahathir, Sharif Banquet Speeches

BK1602094993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and Malaysia have emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. The prime ministers of the two countries said this at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in honor of his Malaysian counterpart Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed in Islamabad last night.

The prime minister in his speech urged the international community to prevent India from repression against people in occupied Kashmir and to fulfill its pledge to allow the Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the Kashmiri people were engaged in a struggle to exercise their right of self-determination which was pledged to them by the international community in the form of UN resolutions. He said instead of honoring its international obligation, India has resorted to brute repression to crush the freedom movement of the Kashmiri people.

Referring to the new international order, the prime minister said Pakistan believes that it must be based on the values of freedom, equality and justice, and respect for human rights. He regretted that some of the greatest violations of human rights are taking place in occupied Kashmir.

The prime minister also referred to the destruction of Babri Mosque and the subsequent massacre of Muslims in various parts of India. He also regretted that Muslims were also being subjected to repression and violence in Bosnia and Palestine. Referring to the confrontation recently started in Afghanistan, he said Pakistan had made concrete efforts for peace and stability there.

The prime minister recounted economic reforms and other incentives being offered by his government for foreign investment and expressed confidence that foreign investors, including those from Malaysia, would find it fruitful to take full advantage of these attractive opportunities.

In his speech, the Malaysian prime minister said the Kashmir problem should be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla Accord. Dr. Mahathir appreciated Pakistan's role for promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and said Pakistan has always played an important role in world affairs. The Malaysian prime minister noted that economic relations between Pakistan and Malaysia have been developing in recent years. He said Malaysia's trade with Pakistan has expanded in the last two years averaging $440 million in volume. He said Malaysian traders have proposed joint ventures for storing and refining palm oil. Dr. Mahathir said his country considers Pakistan an important source for finding markets for palm oil in Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics because Pakistan's sea, road, and air links could be used for trade with these countries.